Wilcox Nursery & LANDSCAPE

Houseplant Watering Guide

How often should I water my plant?

Factors that affected how often you need to water:

- Plant type
- Soil makeup
- Humidity
- Pot type
- Sun/Light
- Air Flow
- Temperature
- Season

We wish we could give you an exact watering schedule, unfortunately there are too many factors that determine how often your plant needs water. Peace lilies and pothos have different water needs. A pothos in a chunky bark/soil mix will need more frequent watering than the same one in rich, dense soil. Ceramic and plastic retain more water than terra cotta. The tips below will set you on the path to successes.

Methods for checking soil moisture

1. Moisture Meter
    a. Check the soil at different depths to get an idea of
2. Stick a finger in it. Each knuckle is about 1" depth
3. Lift the pot to see how heavy it is. Heavier = wetter
4. Wooden skewers/chopsticks
    a. Place it in the soil to the bottom of the pot
    b. Leave for 30 seconds
    c. Pull out skewer/chopstick
    d. Observe where the damp soil sticks to the wood
    e. Wipe clean between plants



It's time to water. Now what?

Each time you water the soil should be full saturated top to bottom. The frequency of watering is what is different for each plant, not the amount of water you give it. Watering can be done in a sink or shower to minimize mess. Always empty out saucers after watering to avoid soggy soil.

Bottom Watering

1. Place a saucer under the plant
2. Fill up the saucer with water
3. Repeat until the top of the soil is moist

Top Watering

1. Slowly add water to the top of the soil until water runs out
2. Avoid watering the leaves
3. Empty the saucer and repeat as necessary until the soil is fully saturated

Higher Needs		
Plant	Soil Moisture	Estimated Frequency
Peace Lily	Keep consistently moist but not soggy. No standing water.	3-4 days
Nerve Plants	Keep consistently moist but not soggy. No standing water.	2-5 days
Ferns	Keep consistently moist but not soggy. No standing water.	3-4 days
Calathea	Water when top 1" of soil is dry. Mist frequently.	4-7 days
Anthurium	Water when top 1" of soil is dry. Mist frequently.	5-7 days
Ivy	Water when top 2" of soil is dry	5-7 days
Lower Needs: Avoid Overwatering		
Plant	Soil Moisture	Estimated Frequency
Pothos	Allow soil to dry 80 - 90% between waterings	1/week
Philodendron	Allow soil to dry 80 - 90% between waterings	1/week
Monstera	Allow soil to dry 80 - 90% between waterings	1/week
Peperomia	Allow soil to dry between waterings	1- 2 weeks
Pilea	Allow soil to dry between waterings	2 weeks

Succulents		
Plant	Soil Moisture	Estimated Frequency
"Strings" (hearts, pearls, dolphins, etc)	Allow soil to dry completely between waterings	2 weeks
Aloe	Allow soil to dry completely between waterings	3 weeks+
"Assorted Succulent"	Allow soil to dry completely between waterings, but do not allow leaves to shrivel.	2-3 weeks+
Cactus (excluding Christmas cactus)	Allow soil to dry completely between waterings. Soil can remain completely dry for a few ways.	2-3 weeks+



Signs your plant is thirsty

- Drooping
- Folding leaves
- Browning leaves
- Wrinkling (succulents and cacti)







Signs of Overwatering

- Leaves that yellow then fall off
- Soil smells like sulphur, rotten, or swampy
- Mushy stems and leaves (succulents)
- Fungus growing on soil surface
- Fungus gnats