



# ORCHIDS 101

Orchids are not difficult to grow and are capable of blooming for many weeks. Orchids, like all plants, need a balance of light, air, and food/water. Their beauty and ease of care has made them a favorite interior plant.



**Light** - Place in moderate light, but not direct sunlight. Too little light, they will fail to bloom. Too much light, they tend to burn. Moderate to bright indirect light is best.

**Air** - Orchid roots love air circulation and that is why most are planted in a bark rather than soil. It's natural for some roots to be exposed on the surface.

**Water** - Water your orchid once per week by saturating the roots for a few minutes. Ideally orchids should be watered just as they dry out. They should not be kept moist all the time. An old, but reliable method is a finger inserted in the potting mix below the surface to check for moisture. Do not let your orchid sit in standing water.



## Blooms

Orchids have stems with many buds and blooms. Flowers open naturally from the interior first. Buds gradually open over time towards the tip. Keep your plants environment (temperature, water, and light) as stable as possible during the bloom cycle.

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## Out of Bloom

Orchid plants can be enjoyed when not in bloom. When the bloom stalk has lost all its blooms, cut the stem off as low as possible above the lowest bract (a bract looks like a ring around the stem).



## Fertilizer

Your plants will provide you the most enjoyment when properly fed. Typically plants are to be fed once a week in spring and summer, and every two weeks in fall and winter. We recommend always following label directions and never mix too strong. Use a food designed for orchids, not a general plant food.



## Repotting

Orchid plants need repotting when the plant outgrows the current pot or the potting mix breaks down. Fresh Orchid Mix should be used in either case. New pots should be an orchid pot that provides plenty of air and drainage.

