

REPOTTING

Over time most houseplants grow too large for their initial containers. Periodic repotting is part of a regular maintenance program and allows houseplants to remain healthy and continue to grow normally.

When do plants need repotting?

1. Roots are growing out of the drainage holes or circling inside the container; first telltale sign is frequent need for watering.
2. Plant is too large for container - looks out of proportion or is top-heavy and tips over easily.
3. Original container is bland and unattractive - desire to enhance the appearance of the plant and room.

How to repot?

1. Water plant thoroughly and drain at least 1 hour prior to repotting.
2. Turn plant on it's side and gently slide, or if necessary "knock", the rootball out of the container. If you encounter resistance, the medium may be too wet. Let it dry and try again.
3. Prune off roots that are circling the rootball, if necessary.
4. Select new pot not more than 2 inches in diameter than the previous pot to avoid overwatering problems.
5. Put some medium in the container, firm gently and place plant so that the surface of the rootball will be about 1/2 - 1 inch (depending on the container) below the rim of the container.
6. Water thoroughly.
7. Keep plant out of direct light for a few days and observe for any adverse symptoms.

Repotting usually damages some plant roots, resulting in a temporary "shock" with a reduced ability to absorb water and a slow down in growth of the plant. However, in the long run, this actually stimulates increased growth of "root hairs", which ultimately benefit the plant.