

Repotting Indoor Plants

In Spring everything starts to wake up, including indoor plants! The emergence of plants and new leaves outdoors means that the time to repot houseplants has arrived. Repotting houseplants is more than just changing containers—below, we will outline the best approach to repotting your indoor plants to keep them happy and healthy all year long.



MATERIALS

- Gloves and drop cloth, tarp, or newspapers
- Fresh potting soil—even if plants do not need larger containers, it's still important to repot with new soil:
 - » [Malibu Compost Baby Bu's Potting Soil](#)
 - » [FoxFarm Ocean Forest Potting Soil](#)
 - » [G&B Organics Potting Soil](#)
 - » [G&B Organics Palm, Citrus & Cactus Mix](#)
- Slow-release fertilizer:
 - » [G&B Organics All-Purpose](#)
 - » [Joyful Dirt](#)
 - » [Osmocote](#)
- Small trowel or shovel
- Watering can and spray bottle
- Floral snips or pruning shears
- Chopstick or other tool (to untangle roots)
- New container, if needed:
 - » If new container does not have drainage, replant into plastic nursery pot that fits into new container.
 - » New container should be no more than 2–3 inches larger in diameter than original container.



TIMING

How do you know when to repot indoor plants?

- Roots growing through drainage holes
- Roots pushing plant up and out of container
- Plant is top heavy and wants to fall over
- Soil dries out quickly or has pulled away from container sides and become hard
- Plant grows more slowly than usual
- Salt/mineral build-up on top or bottom of container

When is the best time to repot indoor plants?

Indoor plants can be repotted during the active growing season (March–September)—best time is early Spring.

How often should indoor plants be repotted?

On average, young plants should be repotted yearly. Mature plants do not need to be repotted as frequently.



INSTRUCTIONS

NOTE: Water plants about 2 days before repotting.

1. **Remove plant from pot:** Turn plant sideways, place hand over top of soil with stem between middle and ring finger. With other hand, gently tap/squeeze container until plant slides out. Use Hori Hori to work soil away from sides of pot if too tight.
2. **Loosen roots and tidy up:** Once plant is removed from container, gently loosen roots and prune dead stems, leaves, or damaged roots. If root-bound, unbind carefully.
3. **Freshen up soil:** Remove about $\frac{1}{3}$ of old soil; compost or add to yard debris. Pour layer of fresh, pre-moistened soil into bottom of new planter. Mix fertilizer into soil (optional).
4. **Replant your plant:** Set plant on top of fresh soil; make sure it's centered and at proper height—top should be about $\frac{1}{2}$ –1 inch below lip of pot. Add fresh soil around roots and side of pot until snug. Final soil level should be $\frac{1}{2}$ –1 inch below lip of pot so there is a place for water to sit before absorbed into soil.
5. **Water and enjoy:** Water plant with enough water to drain out bottom. Sit back and enjoy happier plant! Keep in mind—newly repotted plants may need less frequent watering if planted into larger containers.