

WOW! Your response to our (email) announcement on Wednesday was over the moon. Thank you!

For the next two weeks leading up to our Opening, I thought some of you might enjoy a few basic

“Tidbits and Refreshers” on the care of indoor plants.

 ***I really believe the most important thing to learn is how and when to water properly.***

* First - make sure the container has plenty of drainage holes in the bottom.
* Second – make sure the container is only a couple of inches wider and deeper than the rootball.
* Third – the potting mix should be correct. We highly recommend soilless potting mix.
* Finally – Saucers are for protecting surfaces only. You should not water a plant that’s sitting on a saucer.

**Roots need water AND oxygen** When you water a plant, the water needs to run completely through the rootball. As the excess water runs out the bottom, oxygen “follows” the water in and stays in the rootball. If the plant is sitting on a saucer when you water, there is only saturation of water. Without oxygen-filled spaces in your rootball, the roots become waterlogged and literally drown. Dead roots=dead plants. Bummer.

**Too large a pot usually causes over-watering** When you put a small rootball into a too large container, it generally takes a very long time for those few roots to use up all that wet potting mix. Not Good! Plus, you will probably water way too often because “but it had been two weeks since I watered it….” which just adds even more wet mix. By allowing the roots to get slightly dry between waterings, you encourage the plant to put out lots of new roots “looking” for more water. This is the best way the make a small plant become a bigger plant! Potting “Soil” is typically very dense and heavy, without good air pockets. Remember the importance of oxygen in the rootball. Potting mix with perlite (the white stuff) really helps make sure there are plenty of spaces for good drainage and oxygen.

**How Often and How Much have such different meanings!** You really probably can’t water a plant **too much**, but you sure can water it **too often.** Provided you have plenty of drainage holes, and the potting mix has plenty of aeration, and you haven’t put a tiny rootball into a great big pot, and the pot is not sitting on a saucer when you water it – you could pour a gallon of water on it without doing damage, right? Right! Because if you’ve potted your plant correctly, all the excess water will run out – leaving the rootball properly moistened.

 **The important question is How Often?** Well, that depends on the environment your plant is in.

* The warmer the room is, the faster the plant will use up the moisture in the potting mix.
* The brighter the light is, the faster the plant will grow and use up the moisture in the mix.
* The smaller the container, the faster the roots will use up the available moisture!
* So – the opposite is going to be true for a cool room, low light, and a too big pot. Makes sense, right?

**Bottom Line: How Often depends on your conditions. Could be once a week, could be once a month. You will have to keep track until you see how long it takes your plant to need another watering.**

**Please remember “If your plant doesn’t need soaking, it doesn’t need watering.”**