

Flowers For Everyone helps you to make your flowers last longer!

Ryan Primrose, Managing Director of Flowers For Everyone - one of Australia's leading retail and online florists has put together nine important tips to help your flowers last longer last longer.

1. Buy the best flowers from the best florist

If you want your flowers to last and brighten your home or office for more than a day or two, buy your flowers from a qualified florist to ensure you get the best quality flowers or arrangement.

2. They will last if you care for them

When you have your flowers delivered or take them home or to the office, unless they come as an arrangement, make sure that you wash your vase and add fresh water before you cut the flowers and arrange them.

If you have bought an arrangement always check the water level daily to ensure that the oasis is moist and so it will provide nutrients to your flowers.

3. The vase

Your vase should be tall enough to cover up to half of the flower and greenery stems and remember you can always trim the stems to fit the size of your vase.

The size of your vase doesn't matter as much as its cleanliness, so make sure it has been cleaned thoroughly, as any left over bacteria can shorten the life of flowers and always make sure that you thoroughly rinse any soapy residue out of the vase.

4. Prepare your vase

Fill your vase with enough cool water so that it will cover at 10 -15cms of the stems. You can use packaged flower and plant food sachets that will increase the life of your flowers and greenery, or you can use aspirin.

If you use the aspirin simply crush two uncoated aspirin between two spoons and add to the water in the vase. Stir in your flower and plant food or aspirin into the water for a minute before adding your flowers.

5. Trim the ends of your flower and greenery stems

Before you place the flowers and greenery in a vase, immerse the stems in cool (room temperature) rather than cold or warm water, then after a few minutes of immersing them in the water trim each stem to the size that will fit your vase with a pair of sharp scissors.

Always make a diagonal cut (at a 45 degree angle) on the stems so that all of the ends are pointed, as increasing the surface area of the flower or greenery stem that is exposed to the water allows each stem to take in more water and they will last longer.

6. Remove excess greenery leaves

Greenery leaves submerged below the water line in your vase are major contributors to the development of bacteria in the water in the vase, and will most assuredly shorten the life of your flowers and greenery. Make sure you remove any leaves that are below the level of the water to reduce the risk of bacteria. If any leaves fall into the water whilst filling the vase, remove them immediately.

7. Keep the water in your vase fresh and clean

Remove your flowers and greenery from the vase every one to two days and add fresh water (with plant food and/or aspirin). If a layer of scum begins to develop on the walls of the vase at or below the water level, remove the flowers and greenery and clean out the vase with a mild soap and water. Then make sure that you rinse the vase thoroughly, and then add fresh water before the flowers and greenery are re arranged.

8. Keep your flowers away from heat

Always ensure that your flower arrangement is kept away from direct heat. Ideally move arrangements away from the areas where they will be exposed to direct heat from the sun and no ventilation. Where ever possible keep them in a shaded cool area of the home or office. If your home or office is air conditioned, it is likely that they will not last a long where fresh air ventilation is non existent.

9. Remove flowers and greenery that are wilting or dying

Check your flowers and greenery each day and remove any that may be wilting or dying, in this way the remaining flowers and greenery will last longer.