

Repotting Houseplants

When to Repot:

Signs:

- **Roots Growing Out of Drainage Holes:** Indicates the plant is root-bound and needs more space.
- **Soil Dries Out Quickly:** Suggests the plant has outgrown its pot and requires frequent watering.
- **Stunted Growth Despite Proper Care:** May indicate the plant needs fresh soil and more room to grow.

How to Repot:

Steps:

1. **Gently Remove the Plant:** Carefully loosen the soil around the edges and lift the plant out of its current pot. Tap the pot gently if needed to loosen the root ball.
2. **Trim Excess Roots:** If the roots are densely packed, trim away some of the outer roots to encourage new growth.
3. **Clean the Roots:** Remove any old soil clinging to the roots and inspect for any signs of root rot or damage.

Choosing the Right Pot:

- **Size:** Select a pot 1-2 inches larger in diameter than the current pot. Ensure it has drainage holes to prevent waterlogging.
- **Material:** Consider the plant's needs. For example, terracotta pots are breathable but dry out quickly, while plastic pots retain moisture longer.

Choosing the Right Soil:

- **Suitable Potting Mix:** Use a mix appropriate for your plant type. For example:
 - **Cacti and Succulents:** Well-draining cactus mix.

- **Tropical Plants:** Moisture-retentive tropical mix.
- **Orchids:** Special orchid bark mix that provides good airflow to the roots.
- **Amendments:** Add perlite or vermiculite to improve drainage or peat moss to retain moisture, depending on the plant's needs.

By understanding the specific requirements for fertilizing and repotting houseplants, you can ensure they receive the appropriate care to thrive and grow healthily. Regularly monitor your plants and adjust care routines as needed to maintain their vitality.