

Why do my houseplants die?

1. **Be aware of what you are putting in your plant:** all the houseplants in the greenhouse are watered with hose water that has been left in a topless container for 24 hours. The chlorine and fluoride need to dissipate first. Rainwater is ideal, tap that has been left out is next. Distilled or regular tap water should not be used. There are websites out there that will tell you this is not true. Plants that get watered with regular tap water or hose water will have chemical burns. Any fertilizer you use generally needs to be diluted.
2. **It's way easier to over water than under water:** You should always check the soil by touching it before you water. Different plants want different things – succulents want to be all the way dry in between watering, and tropicals need just the top one or two inches to be dry. Water everything less often in Winter.
3. **Lighting really counts:** A Southern facing window is usually the only one guaranteed to provide bright light. Western facing receives the next most consistent lighting, followed by Eastern, and then Northern. Bright light does not mean direct sun. Direct sun is going to burn your houseplants.
4. **Water deeply:** You should water until there is excess flowing steadily from the drainage holes. That will encourage much stronger roots than just a little here and there!
5. **Humidity helps:** mist them. Mostly the tropical.
6. **Plants stress out:** (Fortunately, most plants also bounce back!) A plant may go into shock or a state of stress because it was brought to a new location, it's not getting the correct amount of light or water, it's been transplanted, the temperature is incorrect, or it's too near a draft! A stressed plant attracts pests and disease. Do not fertilize a stressed plant!
7. **Houseplants don't need a lot of fertilizer, but they'll benefit from it:** The best all-purpose fertilizer would be organic liquid seaweed diluted to half strength. For blooming plants, try Microlife's Max Blooms. There is also houseplant fertilizer in the greenhouse
8. **If you're stumped, mimic the plant's original conditions:** if you know where a plant is from or can gather some information from the appearance, make some educated guesses. For example, Orchids are considered air plants, as they grow on trees to get the best light source, thus they would need bright indirect light (trees block harmful rays but let enough bright light through) and pots with lots of aeration.
9. **Temp:** most houseplants are not cold hardy. None of the plants in the greenhouse can stomach temperatures below 40 or so. To be safe, assume they all need temperatures above 55-60 degrees.