



8 tips on caring for cut flowers

Keep cut flowers blooming and lovely with these 8 easy tips.

1. **Start with a clean vase.** Wash the vase thoroughly using soap and hot water.
2. **Re-cut delivered flowers.** To prevent air bubbles from blocking the stem, re-cut the stems in a basin of water or under running water.
3. **Cut your own flowers.** Put fresh cut flowers directly in warm water in the morning. For flowers with multiple flowers on a stalk, cut the stem when at least one of the buds is about to flower. For flowers on individual stems, cut when they are fully open.
4. **Use a sharp knife.** Scissors compact the stem, making it harder for flowers to gather water and nutrients. Use a sharp, clean knife, at a 45-degree angle to give the stem maximum surface area..
5. **Trim and cull.** Don't clear all the foliage from the stem, but remove any spent flowers, brown petals or leaves that will be underwater.
6. **Feeding.** Make your own small plant food packets by mixing 2 tbsp of lemon juice, 1 tbsp of sugar, 1/4 tsp of chlorine bleach in 1 qt of warm water.
7. **Water well.** Flowers appreciate lukewarm water (around 100 degrees) topped up every day. Hard water contains minerals which shorten a flower's lifetime.
8. **Light and temperature.** Leave cut flowers in a cool place, away from drafts, heaters, fireplaces and ripening fruit to reduce wilting.

Ready for a fresh start this spring? Call me for a free property consultation!