

## HOUSEPLANT BASICS

Indoor Plants are typically tropical plants that require growing conditions similar to their native environment. Select a plant whose requirements best suit your room's interior and try to duplicate the light, moisture and temperatures of their natural environment.

Make your plant feel at home!

### Light Requirements:

**Low** - Low light plants are fine for northern exposures or further back in a room. Usually these plants can survive in medium light conditions, as well.

**Medium** - Give these plants a bright eastern exposure. In a sunnier room, keep them away from direct sunlight.

**High** - High light plants are happiest with about 4 hours of direct sunlight in a southern or western exposure. Be careful of plant leaves pressing against window glass. Remember, even high light plant leaves can get burned in the summer!

**Water:** A good rule of thumb is to water the plant thoroughly when the soil is dry to the touch a few inches below the surface. Fill the pot until it flows out of the drainage holes and discard the excess water.

*One of the biggest reasons for indoor plant failure is over watering. Over watering occurs when the soil is kept constantly damp and/or the roots are submerged in the water of a saucer.*

Note: The amount of water that a plant needs is affected by the amount of light they receive, the warmth of the room is, type of soil and pot size.

**Humidity & Temperature:** Indoor plants usually like warmer temperatures; if you feel comfortable, they'll probably feel comfortable, too. Increase humidity with occasional misting, water-filled pebble trays or by grouping plants together. Keep away from drafts, doorways, heat registers and cold windows, especially in the winter.

**Fertilizer:** Fertilize during the plant's active growth stage, usually March through October, using a complete water-soluble fertilizer, preferably organic. "Complete" means that the fertilizer contains micro nutrients as well as nitrogen, phosphorous and potassium.

Different plants may have different fertilizer needs. Please ask us if you have any questions.

