

Orchid



Repotting an Orchid: When and How to Do It

Orchids need repotting every 1–2 years to prevent compacted potting mix, which can suffocate roots.

Signs It's Time to Repot:

- Roots are spilling out of the pot or circling tightly inside.
- Water pools on top of the mix instead of draining.
- The potting mix is breaking down or compacted.

Repotting Steps:

1. Gently remove the orchid from its pot and shake off old potting mix.
2. Trim dead or mushy roots with sterilized scissors.
3. Choose a new pot that's only slightly larger than the old one, with plenty of drainage holes.
4. Use fresh orchid potting mix—bark-based for most orchids, sphagnum moss for those needing more moisture.
5. Position the plant carefully, ensuring roots are nestled in but not buried.

Encouraging Dormant Orchids to Bloom Again

Orchids enter a rest period before reblooming. If your plant isn't flowering, a few environmental changes can help.

- Lower nighttime temperatures to 55–65°F for a few weeks to simulate seasonal cues.
- Increase light exposure slightly (without direct sun) to stimulate new flower spikes.
- Switch to a bloom-boosting fertilizer (higher in phosphorus, such as 10-30-20) when a flower spike begins to form.
- Be patient. Some orchids bloom annually, while others take months to prepare.