



Houseplants can be fussy, and they need the right kind of soil to thrive. You should never take a new plant home and repot it straight away as a general rule of thumb. The reason for this is that your new plant will be adjusting to its new environment, and you need to give it a chance to settle before you add the shock of repotting. Repotting your plants too early or into a pot that is too big is an easy way to get root rot; if you are unsure whether repotting is required, pop in to see one of our friendly staff.

Repotting

Repotting needs to be done when your houseplant outgrows its pot or when your plant needs freshening up. You can often tell the soil needs freshening when the soil doesn't retain water anymore or when the soil and the pot have a gap forming between them. This gap is formed because as the soil loses moisture, the particles compress closer together, causing the soil to shrink.

When repotting, start by removing the plant from its pot and gently removing 30 percent of the excess soil. When potting on, only increase the pot size by 1-2 centimetres to prevent over potting (which can cause root rot from overwatering). Repot your houseplant to the same height/level it was previously, and don't plant any deeper than it was initially.

The secret is in the soil

Use an appropriate soil mixture to suit your plants. If you want to purchase premade ready to use soil, then the Oderings Houseplant Mix and Gro-Sure Houseplant Potting Mix are ideal. You can also use the Yates Thrive Orchid Mix or Yates Thrive Cacti & Succulent Potting Mix for specialised plants. If you have many houseplants to repot, you will benefit from making your own houseplant soil mix. See the Oderings recipes for houseplant repotting success.

Root rot and how to fix it

Low oxygen levels in the soil are mostly the cause of root rot. These low oxygen levels are caused by overwatering, which waterlogs the plant and soil. Waterlogging occurs when you have poor drainage, when a plant is sitting in water, or when a plant is repotted in an oversized pot (referred to as overpotting). Overpotting is an issue because when you water your plant, there are not enough roots to take up the excess moisture; the plant then takes too long to dry out between watering, and the roots can start to rot as they can't deal with the mass of wet soil. Root rot can also be caused by soil-living fungi that infect plant roots. These fungi can lie dormant in the soil and then suddenly flourish when the plant is overwatered a few times. The fungi then come to life and cause the roots to die and rot away.

Root rot, if caught early, you can often bring your plant back from the brink of death. Here is how:

1. Remove wet soil from roots and remove any rotten roots.
2. Cut the plant back to 1-2 nodes above soil level (depending on the size of the plant and the roots left, you could leave it bigger). If you have large leaf plants such as Ficus, cut the leaves in half.
3. Use Oderings Houseplant Mix for the re-pot; this has added Trichoderma to minimise root rot.
4. When dealing with root rot, always pot down a size from your existing pot size. For example, 12cm to 10cm or 10cm to a 9cm. Clear pots are great to use as you can see the new root development.
5. If you have a vining type houseplant, pin the vine onto the soil using florist pins after re-potting to encourage more root growth.
6. Surface water after re-potting (allowing water to reach approx. 5cm deep for 10-15cm pot sizes) and place it on a heating pad. Refrain from overwatering. When you see new growth in 1-6 weeks, your plant will be producing strong roots to push out these new leaves.



Oderings Soil Recipes

Mix One

The lush and hardy

For plants that prefer to be hydrated and like low light levels: e.g. creeping ficus, ivy and ferns.

Mix:

- 7 litres of Oderings Potting & Basket Mix
- 4 cups of hydrated coir briquette
- 2 cups of perlite

Mix Two

The tropics

For plants that like medium to bright light and free-draining soil: e.g. pothos, calatheas, monstera and fiddle-leaf fig.

Mix:

- 7 litres of Oderings Potting & Basket Mix
- 4 cups of hydrated coir briquette
- 5 cups of perlite

Mix Three

The sun lovers

For sun-loving plants such as cacti and succulents or plants that require a lot more drainage: e.g. hoya, chain of hearts and string of pearls.

Mix:

- 7 litres of Oderings Potting & Basket Mix
- 4 cups of hydrated coir briquette
- 4 cups of perlite
- 3 cups of fine pumice

Advertisement for Gro-Sure Houseplant Potting Mix. The top section features the KIWCARE logo and the Gro-Sure logo with the tagline "GROW WITH CERTAINTY". Below this, the text reads "FOR OUTSTANDING INDOOR PLANTS". The central image shows a 6-litre bag of Gro-Sure Houseplant Potting Mix, labeled as a "SPECIALIST BLEND". The bag features a list of benefits: "Provides a long-lasting growing medium", "Retains soil moisture for longer periods of drought and frost", and "Contains natural water-retaining CERAMITE". The bottom section of the advertisement reads "AND GREENER LEAVES" and "KIWCARE.CO.NZ".

Houseplant Soil



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