

THE DO'S AND DON'TS OF POINSETTIA CARE

- Select plants with stiff stems, good bract retention and no signs of wilting, breaking or drooping.
- Be wary of plants displayed in paper, plastic or mesh sleeves, or plants that are too closely crowded in a sales display. A poinsettia needs its space, and the longer a plant remains sleeved, the more the plant quality will deteriorate. Crowding can reduce air flow around the plants and cause premature bract loss or other problems.
- Examine the plant's soil: it's best to avoid waterlogged soil, particularly if the plant appears wilted. Such a condition could signify irreversible root rot.
- When transporting the plant, protect it from chilling winds and temperatures below 50° F. Re-inserting the poinsettia into a sleeve or a large, roomy shopping bag will usually provide adequate protection for transporting the plant home when it is cold and windy.



- ✓ **DO** place your plant in indirect sunlight for at least six hours per day. If direct sun can't be avoided, diffuse the light with a shade or sheer curtain.
- ✓ **DO** provide room temperatures between 68 - 70° F. Generally speaking, if you are comfortable, so is your poinsettia.
- ✓ **DO** water your plant when the soil feels dry to the touch.
- ✓ **DO** use a large, roomy shopping bag to protect your plant when transporting it.
- ✓ **DO** fertilize your plant **AFTER THE BLOOMING SEASON** with a balanced, all-purpose fertilizer.



- ✗ **DON'T** place plants near cold drafts or excessive heat. Avoid placing plants near appliances, fireplaces or ventilating ducts.
- ✗ **DON'T** expose plants to temperatures below 50° F. Poinsettias are sensitive to cold, so avoid placing them outside during the winter months.
- ✗ **DON'T** over water your plant, or allow it to sit in standing water. Always remove a plant from any decorative container before watering, and allow the water to drain completely.
- ✗ **DON'T** expose your plant to chilling winds when transporting it.
- ✗ **DON'T** fertilize your plant when it is in bloom.