

When to Re-Pot your Orchid

In general, to keep orchids growing well they need to be re-potted every one to two years. Repotting an orchid provides the plant's roots with a clean and fresh growing environment. The most common reasons you would repot an orchid are:

The plant is simply too big for the current pot.

Are the new shoots growing over the edge of the pot? Are there a lot of roots outside the pot? Is the plant so big that it is now top heavy? If any of these are true, the plant requires repotting.

The current potting media is starting to break down and retain too much moisture.

Most potting media breaks down, or rots, over time and becomes water-logged.

This creates two problems: 1) it retains too much moisture, and 2) it lessens the oxygen in the media, which is required for the roots to breathe – yes plants need oxygen too! This leads to rotted roots. If the media crumbles easily when you rub it between your fingers, it is time to re-pot.

You could also decide to repot simply to update your decor.

If your plant is still in flower, it is best to wait until it is done flowering before repotting. Repotting a blooming orchid disturbs the root system, which stresses the plant and could cause premature fading of the flowers.

It is always best to repot your orchids when they are in active growth. This is often shortly after they have flowered and starting to produce new shoots and roots. For young plants which are not yet mature enough to flower, spring is a good time to repot.