

Chrysanthemums, carnations and alstroemeria are good choices for a vase near a bright living room window. Give them plenty of light without placing them in direct sun, which can warm the water and shorten their vase life.

Flowers to try in a bright room

Some cut flowers naturally last longer than others, making them useful choices for a room where you want to enjoy a vase for more than a few days. Freshness at the start matters too, so look for firm stems, clean leaves and flowers that are just beginning to open.

- **Chrysanthemums:** These sturdy flowers often last well in a vase. Choose stems with fresh, firm petals and leaves that are not yellowing.
- **Carnations:** Their ruffled blooms are dependable cut flowers. Buds can continue to open after the stems are placed in water.
- **Alstroemeria:** Also called Peruvian lilies, these stems carry several small flowers. Remove fading blooms as the others open.
- **Orchids:** Cut orchid flowers can last well, though their care needs vary by type. Keep their water clean and protect the petals from direct sun.

Roses can also work in a bright room, especially if the stems are fresh and the vase is kept cool. They may need closer attention than carnations or chrysanthemums, so check the water and remove any petals that have started to brown.

Find a comfortable spot

A table near the window can be a lovely place for flowers, but the sun moves across a room during the day. Check the spot in the morning and again in the afternoon. If a beam falls directly on the vase, move it a little farther into the room or place it where a sheer curtain filters the light.

Keep the vase away from radiators, heating vents and other sources of warmth. A cooler position helps slow water loss from the flowers. Avoid setting the arrangement close to a bowl of ripening fruit, which releases ethylene gas that can cause some flowers to age faster.

Keep the water fresh

Start with a clean vase and fresh water. Trim the stems with clean, sharp scissors or a knife before putting them in the vase. Remove leaves that would sit below the waterline, where they can make the water dirty.

Change the water regularly and rinse the vase if it looks cloudy. Recutting the stems when you change the water can also help them take it up. If flower food came with your bouquet, follow the directions on the packet for the amount of water to use.

As individual flowers fade, take them out rather than leaving them among the fresh blooms. This keeps the arrangement looking tidy and gives you a chance to check the remaining stems.

Common questions

Can I put flowers on the windowsill?

Only if the sill stays out of direct sun and does not get hot. A nearby table is often a safer choice.

Should I move the vase at night?

There is no need if the room stays comfortably cool. Move it if the spot becomes warm or sits close to a running heater.

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