

Open a window or door to let fresh air circulate, but keep the flowers out of the direct path of the breeze. A gently ventilated, cool room helps prevent stuffiness without exposing the arrangement to heat or a drying draft.

Choose a sheltered spot

Place the vase where air can move around it rather than directly in front of an open window. A table set back from the window often works well. You can still enjoy fresh air in the room without having the stems and petals constantly disturbed.

Strong airflow can speed up water loss from flowers and leaves. If the flowers lose water faster than their stems can take it up, they may wilt sooner. A sheltered position is especially useful for delicate blooms with thin petals.

Keep the arrangement away from a fan, air conditioner outlet, or heating vent. These can send a steady stream of air over the flowers, even if the room itself feels comfortable. A fan can help circulate room air, but point it away from the vase.

Let air in without adding heat

Open a window for a while when the outdoor air is cool and comfortable. If sunlight falls directly through that window, move the flowers out of the bright patch first. Direct sun can warm the flowers and the water in the vase, shortening the life of many cut blooms.

On a hot day, opening the window may make the room warmer rather than cooler. In that case, use another way to circulate the air or wait until outside temperatures drop. The aim is fresh air without a large rise in temperature around the arrangement.

Be mindful of outdoor conditions too. If smoke or heavy dust is coming in, close the window and ventilate at another time. There is no need to leave a window open all day just because flowers are in the room.

Keep flowers away from fruit

Give the vase some distance from a bowl of ripening fruit. Many fruits release ethylene, a natural gas that can cause some cut flowers to age more quickly. Ventilation can help move air through the room, but it is not a substitute for separating flowers from a nearby source of ethylene.

Remove faded flowers and fallen plant material from the arrangement as you notice them. This keeps the display tidy and makes it easier to see which stems need attention. Avoid leaving discarded flowers beside the vase.

Check the water and flowers

Airflow is only one part of caring for cut flowers. Check the water level daily, since stems need a steady supply. Change cloudy water, clean the vase, and trim the stems before returning them to fresh water.

Watch how the arrangement responds to its position. If petals flutter continuously or the flowers wilt near an open window, move the vase farther away. A cooler, stiller corner with some room for air to circulate may suit it better.

Fresh air and flower care can work together. Keep the room comfortable, the vase clean, and the blooms out of strong moving air.

Next step: church flowers