

Guide to Moving with Plants

2–3 Weeks Before Moving: Plant Assessment and Preparation

Inspection and Care

- Check all plants for pests, diseases, or signs of damage.
- Treat affected plants promptly to prevent spread during the move.
- Decide which plants will be transported and which should be left behind or given away.
- Photograph valuable or rare plants for insurance and identification.
- Research the climate of your new location to prepare plants for new conditions.
- Arrange adequate space in your vehicle to transport plants safely.

Legal and Regulatory Considerations

- Check plant transportation laws in current and new regions.
- Verify restrictions on certain species.
- Obtain required permits or phytosanitary certificates for interstate or international moves.

Additional Tips

- Notify your moving company about plants that need special care.
- Prepare protective packaging for delicate plants.
- Water appropriately—not too much, but enough to keep them moist.

1 Week Before Moving: Plant Preparation and Packing

Plant Care

- Stop fertilizing to reduce stress.
- Trim dry, damaged, or dead leaves and branches.
- Tie long stems/branches to prevent breakage.
- Move plants away from bright windows to prepare them for lower light conditions.

Packing Materials

- Cardboard boxes in different sizes.
- Bubble wrap, newspapers, soft fabric, or bags for wrapping.
- Tape, labels, and markers for easy identification.

Additional Tips

- Protect pots with drainage holes using a plastic bag.
- Water plants a day before moving, avoiding excess.
- Label plants with care instructions.
- Prepare a checklist of plants being moved.

1–2 Days Before Moving: Watering and Packing Prep

Steps

- Water moderately; soil should be moist but not wet.
- Drain excess water from saucers.
- Wrap pots with plastic or paper to prevent soil spillage.
- Label pots with plant names and instructions.

Moving Day: Plant Packing and Transport

Packing

- Pack plants last to keep them fresh.
- Wrap gently with newspaper or bubble wrap.
- Place in ventilated boxes.
- Mark boxes as 'FRAGILE PLANTS'.
- Stabilize tall or fragile plants with ties.

Transporting

- Keep plants in the car cabin, not the trunk.
- Drive carefully to avoid sudden movement.
- Protect from direct sunlight and drafts.
- Maintain a stable temperature.

Immediately After Moving: Plant Placement and Care

Initial Placement

- Unpack plants first.
- Place in shaded area to reduce stress.
- Remove damaged leaves or stems.

Early Care

- Do not water immediately; wait 1–2 days.
- Avoid fertilizing for 2–3 weeks.

- Gradually acclimate plants to new lighting.
- Maintain proper watering and humidity.

First Weeks After Moving: Adaptation and Maintenance

Relocation

- Slowly move plants to permanent spots.
- Watch for stress symptoms (wilting, leaf drop).
- Repot in fresh soil if needed.
- Resume watering and feeding routines after 2–3 weeks.

Long-Term Care

- Find local nurseries or plant stores.
- Learn about the new climate conditions.
- Consider supplemental lighting or humidifiers.

Special Recommendations by Plant Type

Large Plants

- Prune to make moving easier.
- Use carts or helpers.
- Measure doors and stairways in advance.

Succulents and Cacti

- Do not water for a week before moving.
- Wrap spiny plants in thick paper or cloth.
- Usually tolerate moving better.

Delicate Tropical Plants

- Minimize transit time.
- Keep temperature stable.
- Maintain high humidity.

Safety Tips

Guidelines

- Place plants safely away from walkways.
- Ensure pots are stable, especially tall ones.
- Keep toxic plants away from pets and children.