

# Air Plants

**Light**-Air plants thrive in bright indirect sunlight. Too much direct sun will cause the plant to dry out too quickly. Place the air plant in well-lit, bright room, away from the strong afternoon sun. In office settings, place the air plant close to a full spectrum fluorescent light source. Standard incandescent bulbs will not provide the proper lighting for the plant to grow.

**Watering**-While air plants do not require soil to grow they do need regular watering. Ideally air plants should be misted every couple of days. However, if a day or two of misting is missed, a good soak once a week will provide adequate water for the plant. To soak an air plant, fill a bowl or kitchen sink with lukewarm water, allow the air plant to soak fully submerged in the water for 15-20 minutes. Remove the air plant from the bath and thoroughly shake off excess water. If water is allowed to collect and sit in between the leaves or "arms" of the plant it can lead to rot. It is also advised to place the plant upside down after a good soak to allow any excess water to slowly drain.

**Mounting**-Be creative! Air plants can be displayed in many ways: in terrariums over beds of decorative stone or sand, or allow them to stand alone. Air plants can be placed on pieces of driftwood or on hanging fixtures and wall mounts. Air plants do not require potting medium to grow, as in nature they grow off of the sides of trees.

**Fertilizer**-Air plants do not require regular fertilizing. However, to increase the growth rate or encourage flower production (yes they can bloom!) a specialty bromeliad fertilizer or a standard houseplant fertilizer can be used at a ¼ diluted rate every 2-3 weeks spring through fall. Discontinue the use of any fertilizer during the winter months to provide the plant a resting period.

**Grooming and maintenance**-As air plants grow it is normal for some of the lower leaves to dry out and appear crispy, remove these by gently pulling them away from the base of the plant. This not only improves the look of the plant, it also allows more of the plant's energy to be directed towards producing new leaves. In addition, if the tips of the air plant's leaves begin to brown and appear crispy they can be trimmed back with scissors; this will not hurt the plant but may indicate the plant's need for more frequent misting.



## Retail Locations

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