
How to Repot and Clean Plants *before* Moving to OR

A checklist to protect the health and safety of Oregon's natural and economic resources

Healthy Plants, Healthy State!

Repotting your plants before moving to Oregon is great for the health of your plants and your new home state! Repotting plants prevents the introduction of potential problematic pests that cause millions of dollars in damage every year, and it gives them fresh nutrients and extra space so they can thrive. It's a Win-Win!

For more information on the problem pests you are helping to prevent and how these pests can harm Oregon's environment and economy, visit <https://www.oregoninvasivespeciescouncil.org/> and check out the INVASIVE SPECIES and WHAT CAN I DO? tabs.

Step-by-step Instructions on How to Repot your Plant

- Wait to repot until shortly before moving

- This gives pests the lowest chance to re-establish themselves in the new soil

- Remove plant from current planter

- Gently tap the sides of the pot to loosen the plant and soil
- Gently slide the plant and soil out of the pot
 - Best done with dry soil, so it stays together during removal
 - You can lightly water the soil if dry removal is difficult or does not work
 - Often best to lay it on its side for this



- Remove dry soil from plant roots

- Gently tap or crumble off as much of the soil as possible from the roots with your hands
- Be careful not to damage the roots



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☐ - Rinse roots with water to remove remaining soil

- Fill a bucket or bowl with water
 - Depending on the size of your plant
- Then, gently wash the roots with your hands in the water in the bucket or a bowl
 - Could also use a sink or a hose for a final rinse
 - Again, depending on plant size
- Continue to use your hands to gently dislodge the soil, removing as much of the soil as possible



☐ - Select and prepare new pot

- If your plant has been in the same pot for over a year, a new pot should be about 1-2 inches larger in diameter than the current pot to give room to grow, but not too much room.
- If your plant seems comfortable in its current pot, you can simply clean the current pot and use it again
- Regardless of whether it's old or new, clean the pot using a rag, sponge, or scrub brush to remove all dirt and debris



☐ - Get new potting soil from a nursery or gardening store

- Do not use soil or compost from outdoors, such as your yard, as this soil could contain problematic pests, and would defeat the purpose of repotting



☐ - Add soil to the prepared pot

- Fill the pot about halfway with new potting soil
- Pack it down tightly to remove air pockets
- Use your hands or a small shovel to make a divot in the middle to set the plant into



☐ - Place the plant in its new home

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- Gently place the plant into the prepared pot
- Pour in new soil around the roots and cover the base of the plant

- Pack down the fresh soil *gently* with your hands

- This helps to stabilize the plant in the new soil
- Be gentle and don't push down too hard, as this could damage the roots



- Water the plant (if applicable)

- How much water should be added depends on your plant type
- Some plants will want a full soak
- Others might be fine with just the moisture from the new potting soil



- Keep plant indoors

- This will prevent pests and pathogens from re-establishing in the soil or on the plants before moving, which would defeat the purpose of this repotting process
- Remember! Plants brought into Oregon with you must be kept indoors indefinitely

And now you're done!

Thank you for doing your part to help protect your new home state!

Your plants and Oregon's environment and economy thank you!