



## *How to Care For Your Poinsettias*

1. Your poinsettias should be protected from the cold when transporting from the store to your home. Do not transport your poinsettias in an open vehicle and try to get them indoors as soon as possible.
2. Unpack your poinsettias as soon as possible. Protective plastic sleeves that come with your poinsettias help protect them during transport but can cause leaf drop and yellowing of leaves if left on for an extended period. Remove them within 24 hours of purchase.
3. When deciding where to display your poinsettias, look for areas in your home or office with bright, indirect light. Try to avoid direct sunlight wherever possible. Poinsettias do best with steady temperatures between 65 and 75 degrees, so avoid placing them near doorways or entrances where drafts may fluctuate temperatures. Also, poinsettia bracts are tender and sensitive to bruising, so avoid placing them in high traffic areas.
4. Check your poinsettias daily for water. Push your fingers into the soil, and if it feels dry to the touch, go ahead and water lightly. You should water enough that the soil is moistened but little to no water is draining through the bottom of the pot. If your poinsettias still have their decorative foil covering, check to make sure water is not collecting at the bottom and drain if it is. Root rot from excess water is the number one reason why poinsettias fail, so be careful.
5. There is an old wives' tale that poinsettias and their sap are deadly to humans and animals. This is false. Poinsettias can be irritating if ingested, causing mouth rash and an upset stomach. Also, the sap can cause skin irritation. Other than that, poinsettias are harmless.