



# Ken Matthews Garden Center

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## REPOTTING HOUSEPLANTS

**Selecting the correct container:** Your new container should be 1"- 2" larger in diameter and in depth than the container it's growing in now. This will give the roots room to grow and allow the soil to dry at an acceptable rate and not become waterlogged.

**Drainage:** Drainage is the most important factor for the health of a potted plant. Drainage holes in the container are essential, but if you are going to use a decorative container use lighter soil. NEVER let a plant stand in water for more than a few hours, or you WILL kill it!

### **Choosing the correct soil for your houseplant:**

If you are repotting a fleshy-rooted plant, such as a Rubber Tree, many Dracaenas or Aglaonema, use a mix of Gardener's Gold potting soil and Perlite. General rule of thumb is 3 parts Gardener's Gold and 1 part Perlite. This potting mix will allow good drainage and root development and reduce the chance of overwatering due to slow-drying medium. Fine-rooted plants, such as ferns, African Violets, begonias and many other smaller houseplants, do great in straight Gardener's Gold potting soil. This holds moisture a bit longer, and prevents the soil from drying up. Cactus or succulents, such as the Jade plant, should be potted in a Cactus and Succulent Soil Mix. Added elements such as sand allow the media to drain quickly and not hold too much water.

### **Preparing the roots:**

When repotting, be sure to "tease" the roots out of their circular root ball shape. This will help to speed plant growth and prevent plants from becoming root bound. This can be done by using your hands or a tool (chopsticks work great) and gently pulling (teasing) the roots outward.

### **Potting your plant:**

Set the teased root ball on top of a few inches of potting mix that you have poured into the bottom of the container. Fill in around the root ball with more potting mix while gently but firmly tamping down the potting mix as you go. Fill the container until the soil is level with the plants original root ball and about ½ - 1 inch below the top of the new container. Give your freshly potted plant a deep drink and place in filtered light away from direct sunlight.