



Water Props

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Have you ever wanted to propagate your own plants? We can show you how! It's easy, super fun and you can impress your family and friends with your green thumb. Who doesn't want to be surrounded by more plants? Get reading and then get snipping so you can fill your home with greenery. When it's full, you can fill your family and friends' homes too! Trust us, they will thank you for it.

What you will need:

- Secateurs: Make sure they are sharp and clean. This reduces the risk of disease and damage to the mother plant and the cuttings.
- Water: Preferably filtered or rainwater over tap water.
- Container: If you want to be a little more stylish, Heyne's stock some pretty cool propagating vases.

Now for the fun and impressive part:

The type of plant you choose will determine the technique you will use to have the best success rate. Your cutting doesn't have to be very big; a few inches will do. Make sure that any seed pods or flowers are removed so that your cutting can put its energy into making new roots, which is just what we want.

- Stem cuttings from plants such as Begonias, Ficus and bamboo can be propagated in water. This also goes for vine plants such as Epipremnum varieties (devil's ivy), Philodendron cordatum (heart-leaf plant) and Monstera varieties (Swiss cheese plant). Avoid using woody stems, as they aren't ideal to use for water propagation. You will need to cut below the node. Nodes are the points on the stem of a plant where buds and leaves sprout from. This area has high cell activity, which is what you want when propagating. Snip just under the node and remove any leaves that may end up in the water. Pop that cutting into your water and watch those roots grow!
- Leaf cuttings can be propagated from some (but not all) plants. With some plants (such as African violet, Peperomia and Hoya), your leaf cutting will need to include the petiole (the leaf attachment connecting the leaf to the stem), placing the petiole into the water. Sanseveria (mother-in-law's tongue) can be cut into segments and placed vertically into the water.
- Succulents can be propagated by either stems or leaves, but you will need to air dry them for a few days before you place them into water. Allowing the cut to callous over will help to prevent the stems from rotting. Instead of snipping your succulent for a leaf cutting, gently wiggle the leaf from side to side until the leaf comes off, including the base that attaches to the stem.
- Stolons are running plant stems that form mini-me plantlets, sending out roots at points along the way. Chlorophytum comosum (spider/ribbon plant) is an excellent example of this. Snip these little clones off and place the base of them in water. Just be sure that their leaves aren't in the water, as they may rot.



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Last but not least:

- Plants propagate best in the warmer months.
- Keep your little ones out of the hot sun.
- Make sure the plants are actually in the water. Yep, this is a pretty important step.
- Be patient, as some plants can take a little while to root. Generally, 4-5 weeks or longer.
- You can add very diluted seaweed extract to your water. You may need to change the water more often, but it will help to support root growth.

A very important tip is to keep an eye on that water. If it starts to go murky or gets a bit whiffy you need to change it. Usually every week or two, or more often if you feel you need to.

Once your roots get to about 1-2 inches in length, pot them into some good quality soil. If they get any longer than that they may struggle to adapt to soil.

Don't feel disheartened if not all the cuttings take. It happens to the best of us! Just keep trying and have fun doing it!

