

Maya Wedge

Choosing a Houseplant In Five Easy Steps



Why Get a Houseplant?

Houseplants are a unique way to add personality, and colour to a room, and can even improve air quality and humidity in your home. With the countless different types of plants out there, you're bound to find one that is to your liking. Everyone is capable of caring for a houseplant, from beginners to seasoned gardeners; there's a houseplant suitable for

all skill levels. In this article, we'll cover some of the important things to consider when choosing a plant.

1. Determine Green Thumb

The first step in choosing a houseplant is determining your gardening skills, and how involved you want to be. If you are looking for a low maintenance plant, that requires infrequent watering and requires no pruning, a slow growing aloe is a better fit for you than a rapidly blooming azalea flower, which needs frequent pruning, and a constantly slightly acidic, damp soil. Asking yourself the following questions can greatly narrow down your search.

1. How often will I remember to water this?
2. Am I going to maintain a plant that needs to be pruned weekly?
3. How often do I want to re-pot it?

These questions can help you to avoid buying a plant that requires very complicated care, or a plant that is too easy when you are seeking a challenge.

2. Choosing a Houseplant for your space

Many plant stores, or garden centres will have very knowledgeable staff who know their product very well, and will be able to tell you which plants are suited for you based on a brief description of your space. Everyone has a different opinion on what can affect a plant, from sunlight to slight drafts in your home. It's nearly impossible to control every

factor in your plants life, but the following are what I think are important to consider about your space.

Light Situation	Low light, Natural Light, Direct Sun...
Humidity	Very dry, Normal, Moist...
Temperature *	Above 75°
Air Quality	Smoking, incense burning...
Home	Kid / Pet friendly...

* Most plants are adaptable to temperature, but some will die if it is at or below 12°, and some studies show plant growth is slowed at temperatures above 23°.

3. Appearance and Functions

Keeping the aforementioned in mind, you are still buying this plant for yourself, and should get one you love. There are many plants out there, all with slight differences. Are you looking for a bright pink, or a classic green? Do you want a leafy Monstera, or a plant that will produce beautiful, vibrant flowers? Some people seek plants specifically for medicinal purposes. The aloe plant has a lovely gel inside that can be used for anything from skincare, to treating sunburn. Air purifying plants can help to keep you homes air feeling fresh, and some plants can even help control humidity. The best way to see all your selection is too check out a few different stores.

4. Where to Purchase

When buying houseplants, it is really important to ensure you are getting a healthy plant to start off with. There is nothing more frustrating than having a plant die because it was neglected by the people caring for it previously. In Winnipeg, there are plenty of greenhouses, and specialized plant stores that have a great selection of healthy plants, cared for by dedicated staff. Verde, is an example of a plant shop in Winnipeg that has a wide variety of plants, and helpful staff that are very knowledgeable about the plants they carry and can easily guide you in the right direction if they do not have the plant you are searching for. Many places also offer a discount on damaged plants, although it can be tempting, they are discounted for a reason. Plants that are damaged, or sick often don't come back from the state they are in.



5. Pottery, and Display

Pots come in all different shapes and sizes, there are classic terra cotta planters, to fun animal shaped ones. It can be overwhelming to find the right size pot for your new plant, so a good rule of thumb to remember is if the container your plant came from fits snugly inside the pot, it is a good fit. You may need to re-pot your plant to allow for

growth, this will be indicated by the soil separating from the sides of your plants container. Playing around with different shelf, desk, or even hanging plant arrangements can help you make your space feel more unique. The above pictures show I display my houseplants.

One Last Thing

The last thing that is important when choosing a houseplant, is patience. You need it when the right plant doesn't just present itself, and you need to do a little digging. And you'll need it when your favourite plant dies, and you need to start all over. It's hard not to get discouraged when this happens, caring for plants can sometimes feel like such a waste of time, when you spend so long caring for it and then it dies suddenly, it feels like you did something wrong. I have lost plenty of houseplants suddenly due to unknown reasons, but I also have many plants that have lived for years and are thriving. Either way, caring for plants is a very rewarding hobby, and I recommend it to anyone, and everyone.

My Top Five Favourite Houseplants

1. Monstera Deliciosa



2. Sansevieria



3. Ficus Elastica



4. Plumosa Fern



5. Aloe Vera

