

Chalet

ORCHID-REPOTTING TIPS



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- **How Often Should You Repot Your Orchids?**

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- **The Two Best Times of the Year to Repot Orchids:** from late winter to late spring, or just after the orchid has finished flowering. (Often these two times coincide.) An exception to this rule: pansy orchids (*Miltonia* and *Miltoniopsis*) are best repotted in the fall. Repotting done at other times may retard your orchid's blooming cycle by up to a year.
- Whenever possible, repot your orchid with the same sort of **growing medium** you're replacing. For example, if your orchid is rooted in orchid-bark mixture, replace it with fresh orchid bark mixture of the same grade. Changing the type of growing medium may shock the roots or delay reflowering.
- Whenever possible, repot your orchid into the same **type of pot** it was in before--e. g., repot from terra cotta to terra cotta, or from plastic to plastic.
- One word of warning about ***Dendrobium*** orchids. Many dendrobiums prefer "tight shoes"--i. e., small, cramped pots. Accordingly, repot these orchids as infrequently as possible and only when many roots are clambering over the side of the old pot. Many dendrobium growers merely place the old pot--with the plant still firmly rooted in it--into a slightly larger pot. The gap between the inner and outer pots is then filled with fresh potting medium.

The Repotting Sequence:

1. Water your plant thoroughly while it is still in its old pot and medium.
2. Carefully remove the plant and tease the old potting material away from the roots. Remove brown, mushy roots and shriveled, dry roots. Use a sterile cutting tool. Retain all healthy roots (which are relatively plump and ivory- or silver-colored).
3. Put a thin layer of new potting medium at the base of the new pot, and then gently position the bare-rooted orchid in the pot. Sprinkle additional new potting medium around and on top of the roots. Do not compact the medium too much! When you're done, the orchid should be firmly seated in the pot. If it wobbles, secure it more firmly with a stake, a cattleya ring, or rhizome clips.
4. Water the newly repotted plant thoroughly once again.