

Houseplants 101: Aroid and Fern Care

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AROIDS:

The aroid family is **EXTREMELY** vast! You might already know some of the plants that fall into this family: philodendrons, anthuriums, colocasia, and aglaonema are all aroids. The beloved Monstera and Hope Selloum are both aroids.

Some aroids are more forgiving than others but in general these are sub-tropical plants and they need topical humidity to really thrive. It's a good idea to spray the foliage with dechlorinated water and allow the soil to go slightly dry between waterings to prevent root rot. Keep in mind that most municipalities have chlorinated tap water, so allow tap/hose water to sit out overnight before watering plants with it.

Aroids are the best houseplants! The key is to not over- or under-water the plants as well as eliminating chlorine from your water source. Ideally they would like an eastern facing window and generally don't like full southern or western exposure, but some can handle it and will adapt.

You'll know when your aroid is unhappy - yellowing leaves or underperforming leaf production means not enough water, humidity or pure water. Try spraying the foliage and root base (and, yes, also dechlorinating your water!).



FERNS:

There's no better way to fully realize your indoor jungle dreams than by adding ferns to the environment! Two of the most popular and easier-to-care for are the Staghorn ferns and the Maidenhair ferns. Although they have a reputation for being finicky and high maintenance, you'll see the return in your thriving and lush plants by following these suggestions.

The key to successfully growing ferns indoors is indirect, bright light in a northern or eastern facing window, tropical humidity, well draining soil, and no chlorine. You can use a regular potting mix for ferns. Typically, you want to water them only once the soil is just barely dry and make sure you're **misting the foliage** when the air is dry. Most importantly, however, you'll want to only use dechlorinated water for watering and misting.

It cannot be stressed enough that in growing houseplants, and in particular, ferns, use purified water. Tap water in most municipal areas is chlorinated, and many plants (like ferns, aroids, and many orchids) suffer from any chlorine in the water. You can dechlorinate your water by letting it sit out at room temperature overnight.



Another issue that may cause trouble is dry air. It is important to keep the environment for ferns humid by misting. Ferns will start to lose leaves or turn yellow when they're unhappy, and that's typically because they're not getting enough humidity. If you see yellow leaves, try increasing their humidity by spraying them 1-2 times a day with dechlorinated water.