HOUSEPLANTS · INDOORS, IN BRIGHT INDIRECT WINDOW LIGHT

Let's grow peace lily.

Spathiphyllum hybrids

This plan is for **Compact Spathiphyllum hybrid**

Peace lily care starts with soft window light and a soil check before watering.

Keep its nursery pot **1 rooted plant**

Before you start

Start indoors year-round in a warm room with bright, indirect window light; choose a spot away from cold drafts.

By jennyzhuang

Sources checked September 27, 2026 View sources ↗

LIGHT

Bright indirect light

Choose bright, indirect window light. Filter strong sun and keep it away from heating or cooling vents.

WATER

Lightly moist roots

Water when the top inch starts to dry; keep the deeper mix lightly moist, never soggy.

FEEDING

Very light feeding

After nursery feed ends, use a dilute feed at a needed watering about every 6–8 weeks while growing.

Peace lily (Spathiphyllum) is toxic to cats and dogs when chewed. Keep the plant and any cut pieces out of reach; contact your veterinarian if ingestion is suspected.

BEFORE YOU START

Your little kit.

- ✓ 1 healthy peace lily in a draining 4–6-inch nursery pot
- ✓ 1 saucer or an outer pot you can empty
- ✓ A watering can; no immediate repotting kit needed

THE SOIL

Keep healthy nursery mix at first. When repotting is needed, use a fresh houseplant potting mix that drains freely, and check the bag for added fertilizer.

Start with what's on this list. Add plant food only when the feeding section says it's needed.

YOUR SIMPLE GROWING PLAN

One pot. Here's the plan.

Indoors, in bright indirect window light. Start with **small plant**.

THE POT

Keep its nursery pot

Start with one plant in a draining 4–6-inch nursery pot and add a saucer. This is our compact starter choice, not its final pot size.

HOW MANY

1 rooted plant

Choose a healthy, labeled Spathiphyllum. Ask for a compact cultivar if it needs to stay on a shelf; a small pot alone does not tell you its eventual size.

THE CONTAINER

Keep its nursery pot



No immediate repot

START WITH

1 rooted plant



Illustration · not to scale

Keep its nursery pot · 1 rooted plant Start with one plant in a draining 4–6-inch nursery pot and add a saucer. This is our compact starter choice, not its final pot size. Choose a healthy, labeled Spathiphyllum. Ask for a compact cultivar if it needs to stay on a shelf; a small pot alone does not tell you its eventual size. Original illustration; not to scale.

01

Keep the draining nursery pot

Set one healthy starter on a saucer or inside a removable outer pot. Keep the drainage holes clear; empty collected water after each watering.

02

Find soft window light

Choose a bright spot outside the direct sunbeam. If strong rays reach the leaves, use a sheer curtain or move the plant back from that beam.

03

Feel the top inch

Check every 3–4 days at first. Water as that layer begins to dry, before the deeper root zone becomes very dry. Damp mix means wait.

04

Water, drain, and watch new growth

Wet the mix evenly and let excess drain. Keep the pot out of standing water, then watch for fresh leaves rather than adding fertilizer immediately.

When it is time to repot: check drainage and choose a container mix. Follow this plant's mix instructions.

Other ways to start

Separate a rooted division

During a needed repot, divide a healthy clump into sections that each have roots and leafy growth. Pot one section at its previous depth in a small draining pot, with fresh mix around its roots. Keep it lightly moist in indirect light. Use a rooted section rather than a single cut leaf; peace lily is normally propagated by division.

YOUR EVERYDAY ROUTINE

Water & fertilizer at a glance.

WATER WHEN

Check every 3–4 days at first. Water as the top inch begins to dry while deeper mix stays lightly moist; drain. Damp mix means wait, even if leaves droop.

FERTILIZER

Miracle-Gro Water Soluble All Purpose Plant Food (US 24-8-16)

AMOUNT

⅛ teaspoon in 1 US gallon of water

WHAT THAT AMOUNT COVERS

Mix into water. Apply only enough solution to wet this pot and drain; the mixing batch is not the amount to pour on.

HOW OFTEN TO FEED

Every 6–8 weeks during active spring or summer growth.

WHEN TO START OR PAUSE

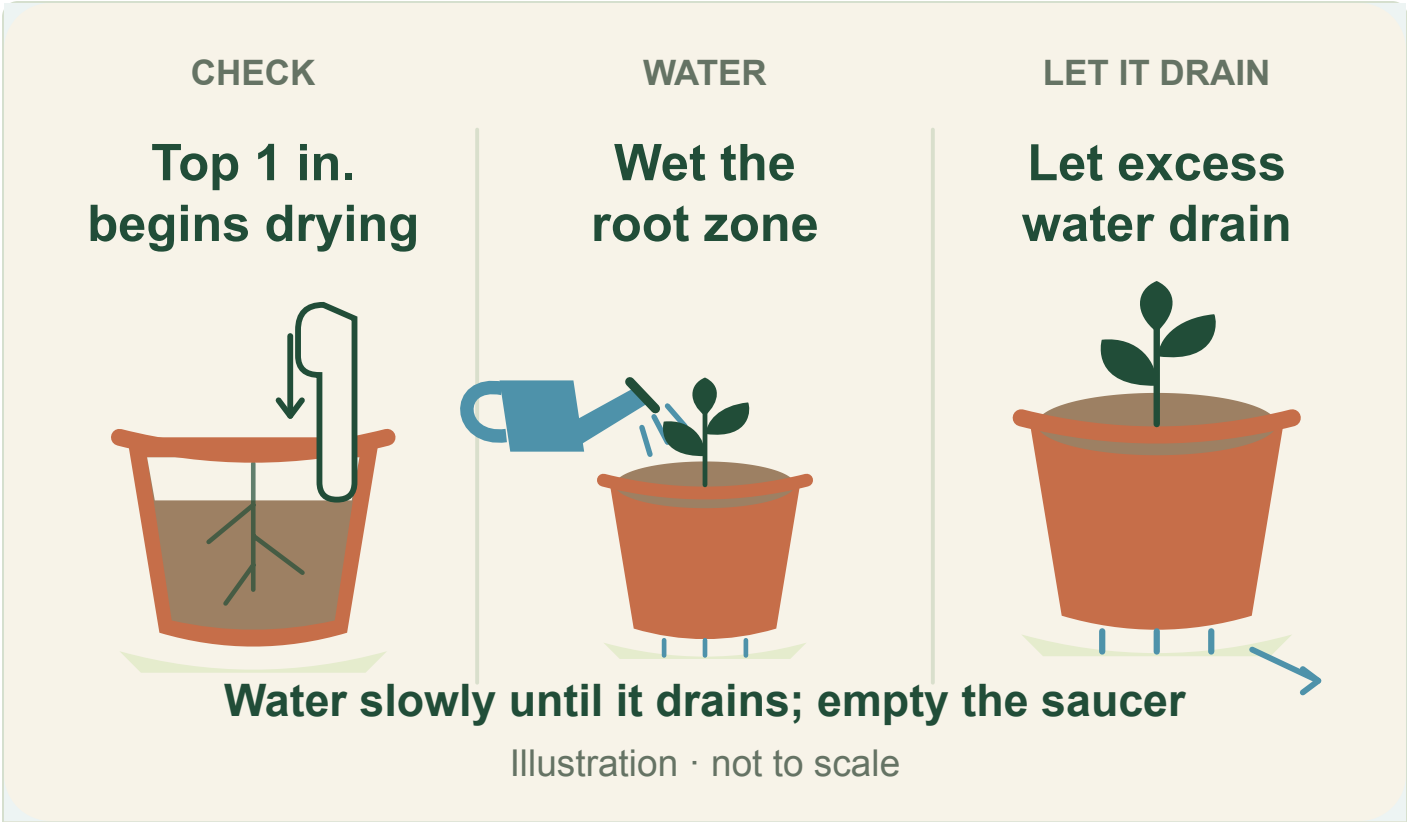
Wait until nursery feed ends. Feed at a needed watering; pause when growth stops and never add water just to meet a feeding date.

Our adapted light-feeding recipe: ½ teaspoon (the US product's indoor rate) × ¼. Not a plant-specific label rate.

01 / EVERYDAY CARE

When to water.

Check the top inch every 3–4 days at first. Water when it starts to dry while the mix below remains lightly moist; wait if the surface is still damp. Pour slowly over the root zone until excess water drains, then empty the saucer. The reminder means check, not automatically water. A wilted plant in wet mix needs its drainage checked before another drink; repeated collapse is not the routine to aim for.



Check before watering. Check every 3–4 days at first. Water as the top inch begins to dry while deeper mix stays lightly moist; drain. Damp mix means wait, even if leaves droop. Original illustration; not to scale.

> **The easy rule**
>
> Check first. Water only when the plant needs it.

---

02 / PLANT FOOD

Exactly what to feed it.

Let a new plant settle first. Check its tag, potting-mix bag, or nursery advice for existing fertilizer before adding more. Start only after that feed ends and the plant is making healthy new growth. Skip feeding a wilted or struggling plant.



⅛ teaspoon in 1 US gallon of water Mix into water. Apply only enough solution to wet this pot and drain; the mixing batch is not the amount to pour on. Every 6–8 weeks during active spring or summer growth. Wait until nursery feed ends. Feed at a needed watering; pause when growth stops and never add water just to meet a feeding date. Original illustration; not to scale.



US PRODUCT REFERENCE

Miracle-Gro

Water Soluble All Purpose

24-8-16

Soluble: mix into water

Check the official US product ↗

Illustrated reference; check the manufacturer's current packaging and US label.

¼ OF THE US PRODUCT'S INDOOR STRENGTH

Miracle-Gro Water Soluble All Purpose Plant Food (US 24-8-16)

Mix ⅛ level teaspoon of Miracle-Gro Water Soluble All Purpose Plant Food (US 24-8-16) into 1 US gallon of water. This is ½ teaspoon × ¼: the manufacturer's indoor rate reduced using Extension's light-feeding advice. It is our adapted recipe, not a plant-specific label rate. At a needed watering, feed about every 6–8 weeks during active spring or summer growth; pause when growth stops. Use only enough solution to water this pot and drain, not the full gallon. Use a measured spoon, not an estimated pinch; a different formula needs its own directions.

Check the manufacturer's product page ↗

Use the named US formulation. A different product or concentration needs different directions. The amount mixed is a batch, not a dose to pour into one pot.

---

03 / WHAT HAPPENS NEXT

New leaves and occasional flowers

Look for new leaves from the center of the clump. White flower covers, called spathes, can turn green as they age. A healthy plant can spend time growing leaves between blooms.

Starting indoors and seasonal growth

Start indoors year-round in a warm room, away from cold drafts. As seasonal light changes, let the mix and new growth guide watering and feeding rather than keeping the same routine every month.

For regional planting windows, find your local Cooperative Extension office ↗.

Something looking off?

Why do brown leaf tips keep appearing?

Check several causes before changing the routine: repeated drying, wet roots, dry air near a vent, excess fertilizer, and salts in the water can all play a part. If your supply goes through a salt-based softener, try an unsoftened source or distilled water. Watch whether new leaves improve; the existing brown tips will not turn green again.

Why is my peace lily growing leaves but no flowers?

Clemson identifies immaturity and insufficient light as common reasons. If it lives in a dim corner, try a brighter spot with indirect window light. If it is still a small, young plant, allow time to mature. Extra fertilizer is not a dependable fix for missing blooms.

Is a peace lily the same as a true lily around cats?

No. Peace lily is Spathiphyllum, not a true Lilium lily. ASPCA describes chewing irritation from its insoluble calcium oxalates; true lilies have a different, serious kidney-toxicity risk for cats. That distinction does not make peace lily safe to chew. Keep both away from pets and contact a veterinarian after a suspected exposure.

Repotting and checking mature size

Repot one small step at a time

Roots circling at the surface or emerging from drainage holes are cues to inspect the root ball. If it is crowded, use a pot only 1–2 inches wider with drainage holes. Keep the original planting depth. For example, a crowded 4-inch pot moves to a 5- or 6-inch pot, not a large floor planter.

Check mature size and value healthy foliage

Peace lilies do not all stay desk-sized. NC State lists compact choices such as 'Petite' alongside large 'Sensation'. Check the cultivar tag and mature size before buying; keeping a large variety in its little nursery pot is not a reliable way to make it a dwarf.

Help with your next step.

Compare indoor starter plants

Match a plant to your window light and compare options, including a spider plant for homes with pets.

Set up a nursery pot inside an outer pot

Keep drainage open and empty collected water so roots are not left standing in it.

BEHIND THIS GUIDE

Where the advice comes from.

Plant care is based on the sources below. Planting layouts and beginner routines combine that guidance into one practical plan; they are editorial choices, not results from a Plant Care Steps growing trial.

- Clemson Extension: peace lily moisture, flowering, and reduced feeding ↗
  https://hgic.clemson.edu/factsheet/peace-lily/
- NC State Extension: peace lily cultivars and quarter-strength feeding ↗
  https://plants.ces.ncsu.edu/plants/spathiphyllum/
- Illinois Extension: choosing a pot and settling in a new houseplant ↗
  https://extension.illinois.edu/houseplants/get-started
- Iowa State: moisture checks, drainage, and existing potting-mix nutrients ↗
  https://yardandgarden.extension.iastate.edu/how-to/how-care-houseplants
- Clemson Extension: repotting without burying the original root ball ↗
  https://hgic.clemson.edu/factsheet/indoor-plants-transplanting-repotting/
- Iowa State: peace lily propagation by division ↗
  https://yardandgarden.extension.iastate.edu/how-to/propagating-houseplants
- Maryland Extension: several possible causes of brown leaf tips ↗
  https://ask.extension.org/kb/faq.php?id=881503
- Manufacturer: US fertilizer formula and application directions ↗
  https://scottsmiraclegro.com/en-us/brands/miracle-gro/products/plant-food-and-care/miracle-gro-water-soluble-all-purpose-plant-food.html
- ASPCA: peace lily toxicity ↗
  https://www.aspca.org/pet-care/aspca-poison-control/toxic-and-non-toxic-plants/peace-lily
- ASPCA: peace lilies and true lilies have different hazards ↗
  https://www.aspca.org/news/which-lilies-are-toxic-pets

Something needs updating? Suggest a correction

Published September 23, 2026 · Updated September 27, 2026

Compiled with AI assistance. These first-edition guides have not yet had an independent horticultural review. Read our editorial approach.