

White lilies are a suitable choice for a client's sympathy arrangement because their quiet color works well for a funeral or a home tribute. Calla lilies and white Asiatic lilies are useful options, while fragrant Oriental lilies deserve more thought if the arrangement will be kept indoors.

Choose the lily for the setting

White Asiatic lilies have a simple shape and a relatively light scent. They work in an arrangement for a service and can also suit a client's home, where a strong perfume may be unwelcome. Their upright stems add height without making the design feel crowded.

Oriental lilies have large blooms and a pronounced fragrance. They can make a full arrangement with relatively few stems, but ask before sending them to a small room or a household where scent is a concern. If you do not know the setting, a less fragrant flower is a safer choice.

White calla lilies have a smooth, trumpet shaped form and a restrained appearance. They are not true lilies, but florists commonly include them among lily options. Their clean lines suit a formal tribute as well as a simple vase arrangement.

Keep the color and design restrained

White is a common sympathy choice, and cream or pale pink can soften an arrangement without making it feel festive. Green foliage gives the flowers contrast and helps the design look finished. If you know the recipient preferred a particular color, that can guide the choice instead.

Match the size to the destination. A standing display may be appropriate for a funeral service, while a modest vase is easier to place on a table at home. For a business client, a simple design and a brief, sincere card usually feel appropriate. Check any instructions from the family or funeral venue before ordering.

Consider scent, pollen, and pets

Before settling on a flower, ask the florist about the practical details. A beautiful arrangement should be comfortable to receive and manageable to keep.

- **Scent:** Choose Asiatic lilies rather than strongly scented Oriental lilies when fragrance is a concern.
- **Pollen:** Lily stamens can shed pollen that stains fabric. Ask the florist to remove the stamens as the flowers open.
- **Cats:** True lilies are highly toxic to cats, including their pollen and vase water. Avoid sending them to a home with cats.
- **Care:** For a home arrangement, choose a vase that can hold water securely and ask for simple care instructions.

Calla lilies are also toxic to pets if eaten, so they are not a safe substitute for a household with animals. If you are unsure, ask the florist for a pet safer arrangement without lilies.

Questions about sending lilies

Can I send lilies to a client's office?

You can, but first consider fragrance, shared space, and the client's preferences. A small, lightly scented arrangement is easier to accommodate than a large display.

Are lilies appropriate after the funeral?

Yes. A modest arrangement sent to the home can be a thoughtful acknowledgment after the service. Include a short card so the recipient knows who sent it.

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