

Chrysanthemums and carnations are dependable choices for an office vase, and with attentive care they can stay attractive for two weeks or longer. A reusable container, clean water and regular checks help extend their display and limit waste.

Pick flowers that stay fresh longer

Chrysanthemums are a good place to start. Their solid stems and durable flower heads often remain presentable for at least two weeks. Just a small number of stems can make a full-looking display, so there is little need to add lots of greenery. When one flower fades, remove that flower instead of throwing away the entire stem.

Carnations are also long lasting, commonly keeping well in a vase for about two weeks. Their compact blooms suit smaller arrangements, including one placed on a shared desk or a reception counter, and they are available in a wide range of colors. Look for flowers that feel firm and leaves that appear healthy when choosing stems.

Alstroemeria can usually last from one to two weeks. Each stem carries several buds, which open at separate times rather than all at once. Take off older blooms as they fade. This leaves the unopened buds on the stem to continue opening.

Cut orchids may last for several weeks, although the variety and the conditions affect their vase life. A few stems can create a simple arrangement without needing a large quantity of flowers. Since longevity differs, ask how long the specific orchids are expected to last.

Arrange flowers with less waste

First see if the office has a vase that can be used again. Otherwise, select a sturdy container that is easy to wash and keep for future arrangements. A vase with a narrow neck can hold stems in position without floral foam. For a container with a wider opening, a reusable flower frog can help support the stems.

Choose a quantity that suits the available space rather than buying more than needed. A smaller bunch is simpler to care for and leaves each stem enough room in the water. Request as little packaging as possible, and reuse clean paper or containers when there is a practical use for them.

Flowers grown nearby and in season may need less transport or fewer growing resources, but local origin alone does not guarantee a lower impact. How flowers are grown, moved and stored also matters. Ask a florist or grower for details about the way the available flowers were produced.

Care for the display during the workweek

Clean the vase before adding flowers. Use sharp, clean scissors or shears to trim the stems, and strip off any leaves that would end up below the water. Submerged leaves can contribute to bacterial growth.

Look at the water regularly and replace it if it turns cloudy. Whenever you change the water, rinse the vase and trim the stems again. Keep the flowers out of direct sunlight and away from heaters. Ripening fruit can also shorten the life of some flowers, so do not place the vase near it.

Give one person responsibility for checking the arrangement during the week. They can remove wilted stems as necessary while leaving healthy ones in the vase. Compost the plant material if the office has access to a suitable composting system or collection.

Questions about office flowers

Will the flowers be all right over a weekend?

In most cases, yes. Add water before leaving for the weekend, and put the vase somewhere away from heat and direct sunlight.

Do arrangements need floral foam?

No. Stems can be held in place by a narrow-necked vase or a reusable flower frog, without foam.

Do all the flowers need changing together?

No. Take out individual stems once they fade, and keep the remaining healthy flowers in clean water.

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