

# low-maintenance plants & flowers

## cacti



Cacti are super popular right now, and for good reason—they look great and are easy to take care of because they don't have to be watered regularly.

**botanical name** *Cactaceae*

**sun exposure** From bright, direct light to indirect light depending on the type; spiny or fuzzy varieties generally require more sun

**care** Water them thoroughly when their soil has dried out.

## jade

There are many varieties of jade from miniature versions to larger plants. Not only can they be watered sparingly, they're also signs of good luck!

**botanical name** *Crassula ovata*

**sun exposure** Prefers bright light, but can grow in indirect light

**care** Allow topsoil to dry between waterings. If brown spots on the leaves, it's an indication the plant needs more water.



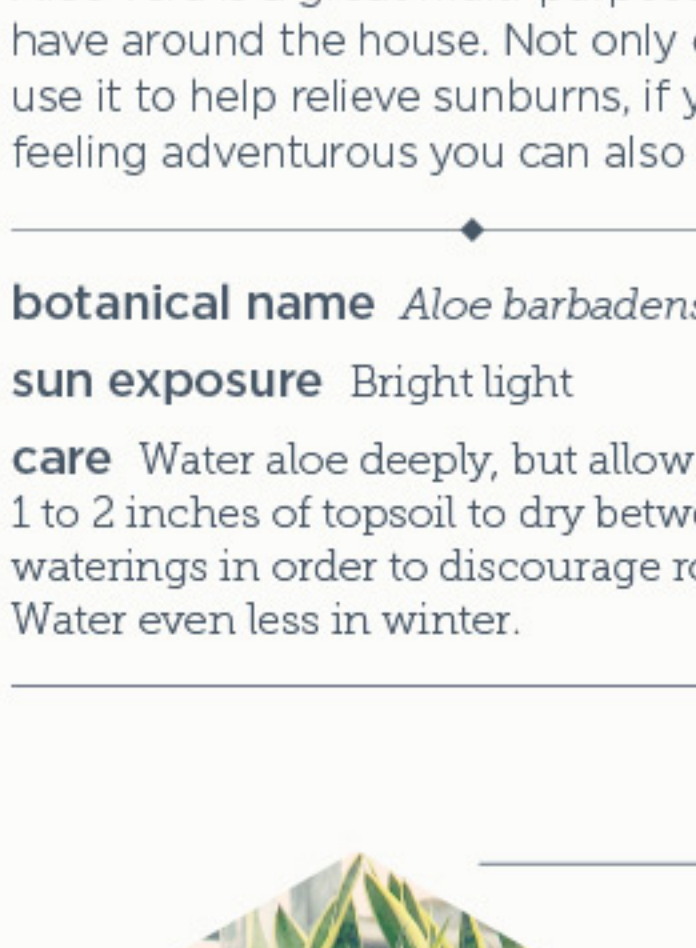
## air plants

Air plants are soil free, which means they don't make a mess. Plus, they can live on virtually any surface, giving you countless display options.

**botanical name** *Tillandsia*

**sun exposure** Indirect light

**care** Spritz them periodically, and soak them in water for about 20 minutes a week. Your plant's leaves will be softer and lighter in color when they're in need of water.



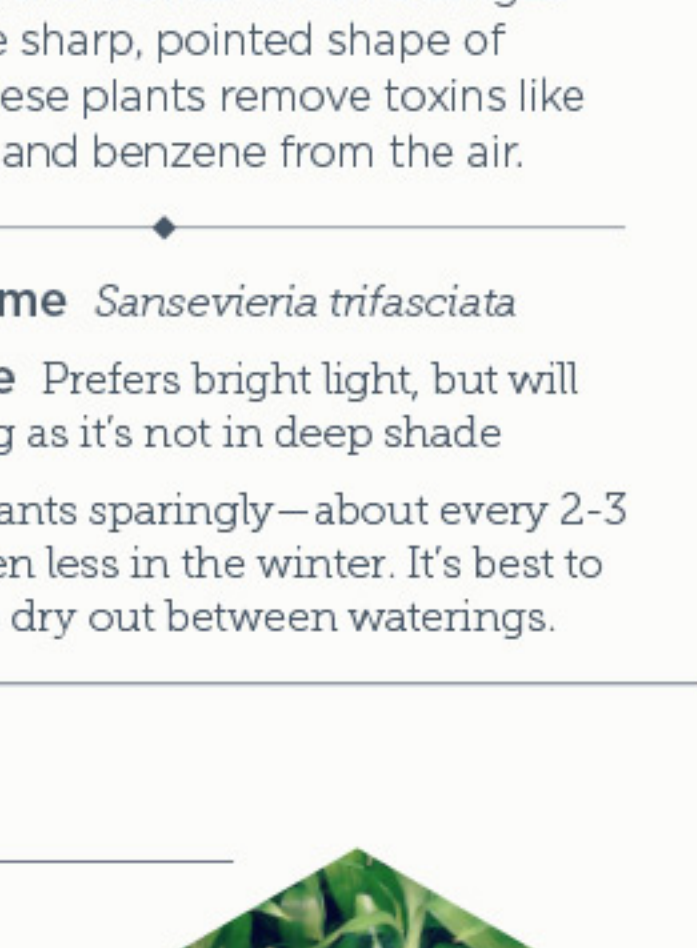
## aloe vera

Aloe vera is a great multi-purpose plant to have around the house. Not only can you use it to help relieve sunburns, if you're feeling adventurous you can also eat it.

**botanical name** *Aloe barbadensis*

**sun exposure** Bright light

**care** Water aloe deeply, but allow at least 1 to 2 inches of topsoil to dry between waterings in order to discourage rot. Water even less in winter.



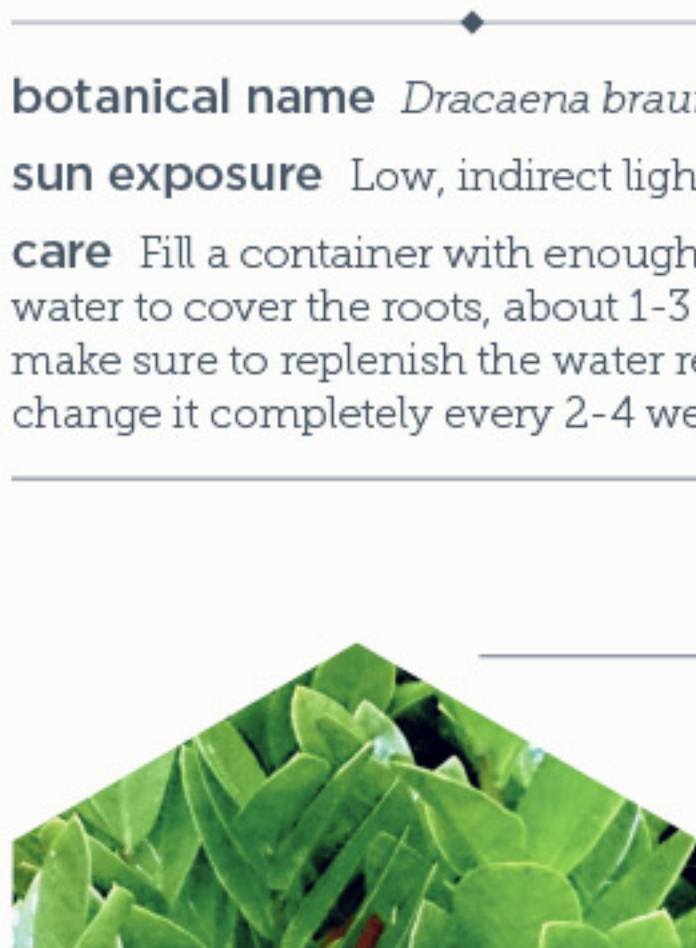
## snake plant

Also known as the mother-in-law's tongue because of the sharp, pointed shape of their leaves, these plants remove toxins like formaldehyde and benzene from the air.

**botanical name** *Sansevieria trifasciata*

**sun exposure** Prefers bright light, but will do okay as long as it's not in deep shade

**care** Water plants sparingly—about every 2-3 weeks, and even less in the winter. It's best to let these plants dry out between waterings.



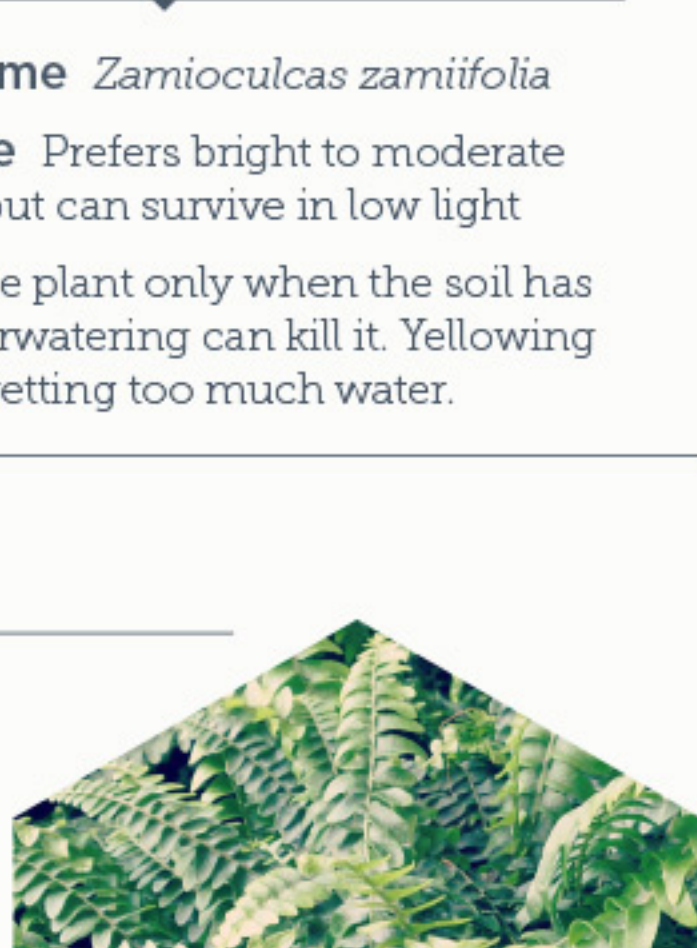
## lucky bamboo

Though not actually part of the bamboo family, you'd never be able to tell by the way it looks. When arranged in groups of three, it's rumored to attract happiness.

**botanical name** *Dracaena braunii*

**sun exposure** Low, indirect light

**care** Fill a container with enough distilled water to cover the roots, about 1-3 inches, and make sure to replenish the water regularly and change it completely every 2-4 weeks.



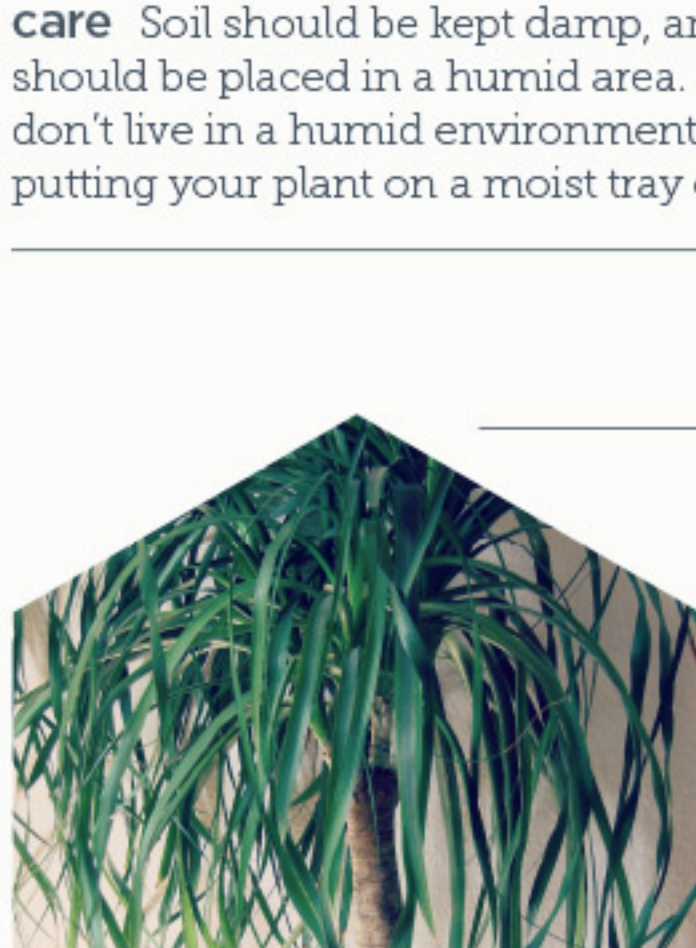
## zz plant

ZZ plants often look healthy even when they have been neglected, making this a great choice for people who tend to forget to water their plants.

**botanical name** *Zamioculcas zamiifolia*

**sun exposure** Prefers bright to moderate indirect light, but can survive in low light

**care** Water the plant only when the soil has dried out—overwatering can kill it. Yellowing indicates it is getting too much water.



## boston fern

Of all the common ferns, Boston ferns are the most drought tolerant and the easiest to care for. They're commonly displayed in lush hanging baskets.

**botanical name** *Nephrolepis exaltata*

**sun exposure** Indirect light

**care** Soil should be kept damp, and the fern should be placed in a humid area. If you don't live in a humid environment, try putting your plant on a moist tray of pebbles.



## ponytail palm

The ponytail palm actually isn't a palm at all, it's a succulent! It also goes by the name of elephant's foot tree because of the shape of its trunk.

**botanical name** *Beaucamea recurvata*

**sun exposure** Prefers bright light, but can survive in partial light

**care** Keep soil fairly dry. Let topsoil dry between waterings, and during the winter water only occasionally.



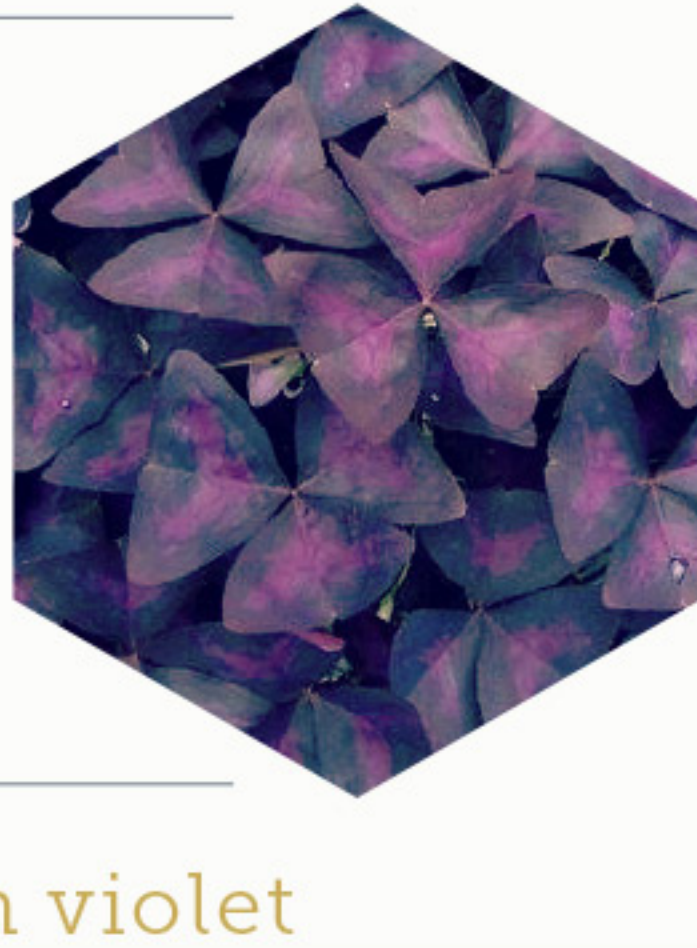
## english ivy

English ivy is known for growing on the sides of houses, but can also flourish in an indoor environment. With a bit of care, it should grow effortlessly.

**botanical name** *Hedera helix*

**sun exposure** Bright, indirect light

**care** Keep your ivy's soil evenly moist from fall to spring, and a little drier in the winter. It prefers a humid environment—you can spritz it with water to increase the humidity.



## sweetheart hoyo

The sweetheart hoyo is also known as the Valentine plant for its heart-shaped leaves. In the summer, it can produce little white and red flowers with the right amount of sunlight.

**botanical name** *Hoya kerrii*

**sun exposure** Prefers bright or indirect light, but can tolerate low light

**care** The sweetheart hoyo is drought resistant and can survive 1-2 waterings per month, but it's best to water it when the soil feels dry.



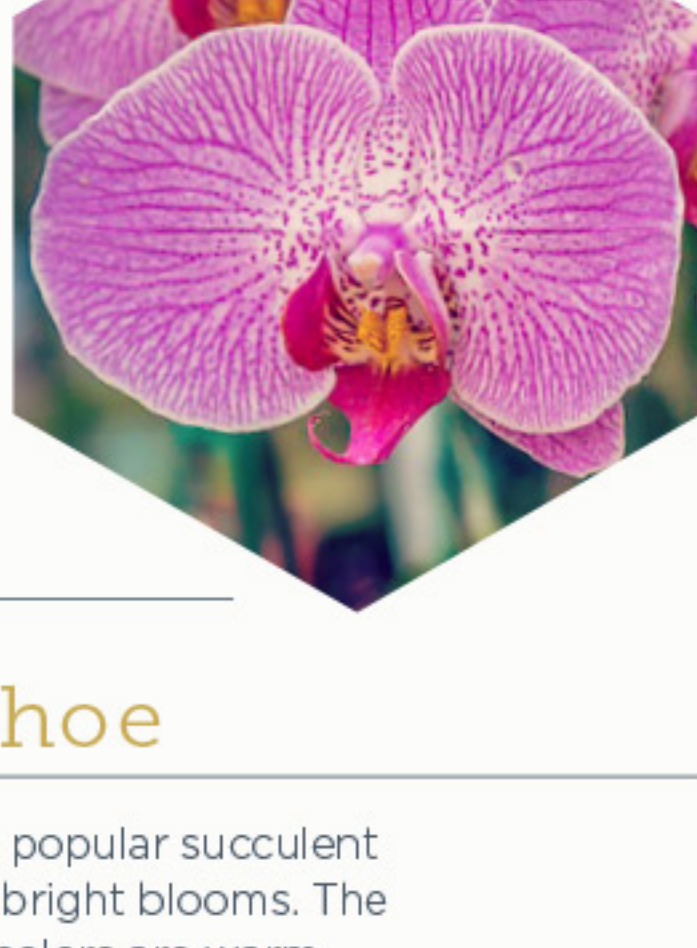
## purple clover

The purple clover is known for its unique heart-shaped leaves. Its leaves fold along the vein when it's dark and open when it's sunny, making them look almost like butterflies.

**botanical name** *Oxalis triangularis*

**sun exposure** Bright, indirect light

**care** Water when the soil is dry to the touch. Purple clovers go dormant in summer. After they have been dormant two to three months you can repot them if needed.



## african violet

The great thing about African violets is that they can bloom year-round, and they do well in artificial light. Once you understand their needs, they're easy to maintain.

**botanical name** *Saintpaulias*

**sun exposure** Bright to moderate indirect light

**care** Be sure to keep the soil moist, but not saturated, and only water with room temperature water. Pinching off old blooms will encourage more flowers to develop.



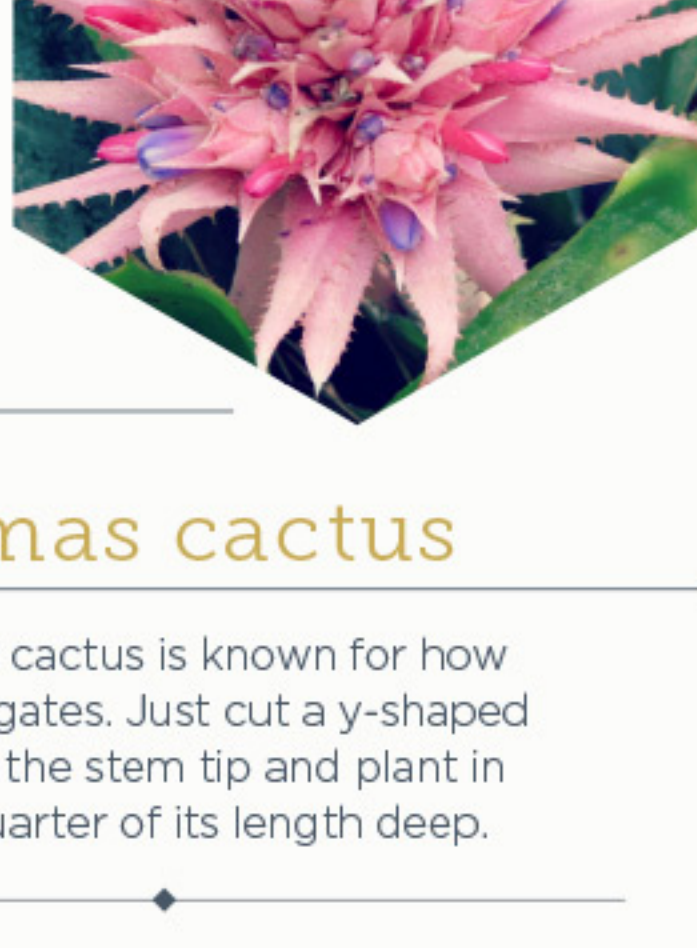
## orchid

Orchids are extremely common house plants because of their effortless beauty. They are often planted in a mixture of soil, sand, bark or moss.

**botanical name** *Orchidaceae*

**sun exposure** Bright, indirect light

**care** Orchids do best in humid conditions, and should be watered about once a week. To thrive, they must be planted in a well-draining environment.



## kalanchoe

Kalanchoe is a popular succulent because of its bright blooms. The most popular colors are warm oranges, pinks, and reds.

**botanical name** *Kalanchoe pumila*

**sun exposure** Bright, indirect light

**care** Kalanchoe do best in well-draining soil, like a combination of 60% peat moss and 40% perlite, and only have to be watered when the soil feels dry.



## bromeliad

Bromeliads are drought tolerant plants, and are unique in that they can be watered through their central tank, the part of the plant where the leaves meet and form a cup.

**botanical name** *Bromelia*

**sun exposure** Bright, indirect light

**care** Bromeliads like humid environments, and their containers should have proper drainage. Water your plants when at least the top two inches of potting media are dry.



## christmas cactus

The Christmas cactus is known for how easily it propagates. Just cut a y-shaped segment from the stem tip and plant in sandy soil a quarter of its length deep.

**botanical name** *Schlumbergera*

**sun exposure** Bright, indirect light

**care** This plant thrives in humid conditions. During its active growing period, make sure to keep the soil slightly moist at all times.



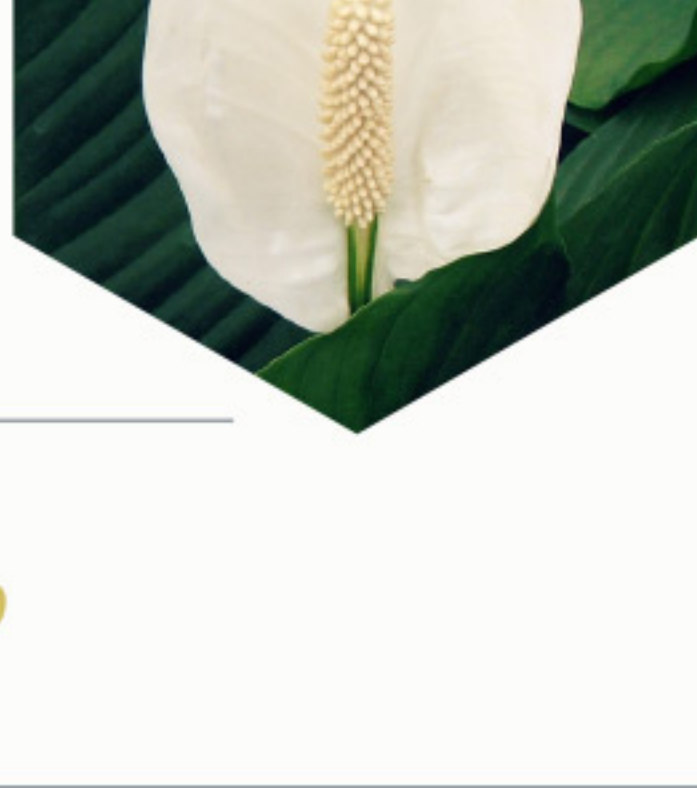
## crown of thorns

The crown of thorns is a succulent that often blooms pink, red, or white. In Thailand it is considered a good luck plant. The more flowers that bloom, the luckier the planter is.

**botanical name** *Euphorbia milii*

**sun exposure** Bright, indirect light

**care** In fall to spring, water when the top 1 inch of soil has dried out. In winter, wait until the top 2-3 inches have dried out. Avoid getting water on the leaves, which can rot if they get too wet.



## begonia

Begonias are prized for their beautiful flowers and lush leaves. Though they're often thought of as outdoor plants, fibrous and rhizomatous begonias also do well indoors.

**botanical name** *Begonia semperflorens*

**sun exposure** Bright, indirect light

**care** Begonias like humid environments. They are naturally pest resistant, but can have fungus problems, so make sure not to get the leaves wet when watering.



## peace lily

Peace lilies are hardy plants that do well in low to medium light. As an added bonus, they clean the air of toxins like carbon monoxide and formaldehyde.

**botanical name** *Spathiphyllum*

**sun exposure** Medium to low light

**care** Peace lilies only need to be watered about once a week, and when they are thirsty they will begin to droop. They tolerate underwatering better than overwatering.

