

Carnations, chrysanthemums, alstroemeria and cut orchids are among the longest lasting flowers for an air conditioned bedroom. With fresh water and careful placement, many can look good for one to three weeks, though the life of any bouquet depends on its condition when you bring it home.

Flowers that hold their shape

Some flowers fade slowly enough that you can enjoy their small changes from day to day. Look for firm stems, healthy leaves and blooms that are beginning to open rather than flowers that already look tired.

- **Carnations:** Their ruffled petals hold up well, and cut stems can often last two weeks or longer with good care.
- **Chrysanthemums:** These sturdy flowers can stay attractive for around two weeks. Remove individual blooms as they fade to keep a spray looking neat.
- **Alstroemeria:** Also called Peruvian lilies, these flowers often last one to two weeks. Their buds open gradually, giving a vase a changing look.
- **Cut orchids:** Many orchid blooms are long lasting, sometimes for two weeks or more. Handle their petals gently because bruises can spoil their appearance.

These are useful guides rather than promises. A flower that has spent a long time out of water or in heat may have a shorter life, even in a cool room.

Choose a gentle spot

A cool room can slow the aging of cut flowers, but a stream of cold air is another matter. Keep the vase away from the direct blast of an air conditioner, which can dry petals and leaves. A bedside table or dresser away from the vent may be a better place.

Keep flowers out of direct sun and away from radiators or other sources of heat. Give the vase a stable surface where it will not be knocked over when you reach for a lamp or a book.

Fruit deserves a little distance too. Ripening fruit releases ethylene gas, which can hasten the aging of some flowers. If you keep a bowl of fruit in the bedroom, place it elsewhere.

Keep the water clean

Start with a clean vase and remove any leaves that would sit below the waterline. Leaves in water decay and make the water less pleasant for the stems.

Trim the stem ends before putting flowers in water. Change the water every couple of days, rinse the vase and trim the stems again. If you have flower food, follow the directions on its packet.

Check the arrangement as you pass it. Taking out faded flowers and fallen petals is a small task, but it gives the remaining stems room to be seen.

Questions about bedroom flowers

Can flowers stay in the bedroom overnight?

Yes. Cut flowers can stay in a bedroom overnight. Choose a place where the vase is secure and the blooms are not in the path of an air vent.

Should I turn off the air conditioner for flowers?

There is no need to turn it off just for the bouquet. Keep the flowers away from the direct airflow and watch for dry or browning petals.

Are these flowers safe around pets?

Do not assume a bouquet is safe for a pet to chew. Keep it out of reach and check each flower with a veterinarian if you are unsure.

Have a look at how to send a surprise gift