

Cut daffodils need enough fresh, cool water to cover the bottom 2 to 3 inches of their stems. Check the vase daily and add water as needed, because the level can drop faster than you might expect.

How to fill the vase

Start with a clean vase and pour in cool tap water until it reaches 2 to 3 inches up the stems. You do not need to fill the vase to the brim. A modest depth gives the cut ends access to water while keeping most of the stems out of it.

Choose a vase that supports the flowers without squeezing the stems together. Daffodil stems are hollow and can bend or split if handled roughly. Give each stem a little room, especially if the flowers have heavy heads.

If you are arranging a large bunch, check the water level again after a few hours. The stems should stay in the water, even if the flowers have had a good drink. Think of the marked water line as a useful guide rather than a test the daffodils must pass.

Keeping the water fresh

Change the water every day or two, and wash the vase before refilling it. Cloudy water is a sign that the vase needs attention. Fresh water and a clean container help keep the stems in good condition.

Before placing daffodils in their vase, use clean scissors or a sharp knife to trim the stems. Remove any leaves that would sit below the water line. Leaves left underwater can decay and make the water dirty.

- Use cool tap water and keep the cut ends submerged.
- Top up the vase whenever the level drops.

- Replace cloudy water and clean the vase.
- Keep the arrangement away from direct sun and heat.

A cool spot can help the flowers last longer. A sunny windowsill may look tempting, but it can warm the vase and shorten the display. A table away from a radiator is often a better home.

Putting daffodils with other flowers

Freshly cut daffodil stems release a sap that can harm other cut flowers. If you want a mixed arrangement, stand the daffodils in a separate vase of water for about 24 hours first. Then move them into the arrangement without recutting the stems.

Throw away the water used for the separate soaking period and use fresh water for the finished arrangement. If you trim the daffodils again, they can release more sap, so give them another separate soak before returning them to the other flowers.

Common questions

Should I add flower food to daffodil water?

You can use cut flower food if you have it. Follow the packet instructions for the amount of water in your vase. Plain, clean water is also a practical choice.

Can I use warm water for daffodils?

Cool water is a simple choice for cut daffodils. There is no need to warm it before filling the vase.

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