

I've Overwatered My Philodendron... Now What?

One of the biggest mistakes you can make when caring for your philodendron is overwatering this gorgeous plant. Too much water, and your philodendron's health will start to decline if you don't act fast.

Think you have an overwatered philodendron?

Then keep reading to learn how to tell if you've overwatered your philodendron and what you can do to reverse the damage before it's too late.

Signs Your Philodendron Has Been Overwatered

One of the most common signs that you've given your plant too much to drink is **yellowing and sagging leaves**.

However, there are other signs of an overwatered philodendron you should check for even if the leaves look great:

- ***Root rot***

Next to discolored leaves, [root rot](#) is one of the most obvious signs your plant is receiving too much water.

To check if there's root rot, remove it from its pot and check the roots at the base of the plant. If they are slimy, blackened, and have a foul odor, then your philodendron is experiencing root rot.

- ***Stem rot at soil line***

Stem rot is similar to root rot, but occurs at the base of the plant right above the soil line. The stem will take on a soggy and slimy feel. It can also spread upwards and harm other parts of the plant.

- ***Mushy lesions on leaves & stems***

Brown and mushy spots on your plant are never a good sign. But in this case, it's just your plant's way of trying to tell you it's receiving too much H₂O and may heal if you act quick.

- ***Mold on soil surface***

If there's something that looks like white powder sitting on the surface of the soil, then it's most likely mold. If the soil is always soaked, then the wet environment becomes a hotbed for mold growth.

- ***Mushrooms springing out of soil***

Like mold, mushrooms are a type of fungi, and grow in wet conditions, including on soggy soil. Small brown mushrooms in your philodendron's soil is a sure indicator your philodendron's getting too much H₂O.

If you notice any of the above symptoms of overwatering, then you must take action fast if you want to save your philodendron. Now, that you know how to tell if you've overwatered your philodendron, let's learn *why*.

Factors that Cause Overwatering

Even if you don't have a heavy hand when it comes to watering, there are some factors that can be causing overwatering.

Soil Aeration

Philodendrons are picky plants in nature, but it doesn't mean they have to be hard to care for. When it comes to choosing a soil for your philodendron, always make sure that it's well-draining.

Failure to give your plant a well-draining soil allows for water to build up in the soil, and can lead to issues such as root rot and stem rot, which can kill your plant if left untreated.

How Much Water Is Used & How Frequently

Even if you give your philodendron the perfect fertilizer, soil, humidity, and [other conditions](#) it needs to thrive, as long as you give your plant too much water, it'll never be healthy.

Philodendrons only need watering about once a week during warmer months/growing season. In the winter months and non-growing season, only water about once every two weeks.

However, your philodendron may need more or less watering depending on its size, health, and overall environment.

PRO TIP: Before watering, conduct a soil check. Simply take your fingers and press them into the top layer of soil. If the surface feels evenly damp, then there's no need to water your plant. If the surface is dry, then go ahead and add water until the soil is evenly moist.

Temperature & Humidity

In the wild, [philodendrons](#) grow in the jungle with warm, humid conditions. Luckily, philodendrons are adaptable plants and can still thrive indoors, so there's no need to turn your home into a jungle.

In general, here are the best temperature and humidity ranges for philodendrons:

Temperature: 65-85 degrees Fahrenheit

Humidity: 60% or more

How to Save an Overwatered Philodendron

At this point, you should have a better understanding of what's causing your plant to drown in its own soil, and threatening its health.

Now, it's time to save your philodendron.

Follow this step by step guide to save your overwatered philodendron:

Step 1: Stop Watering.

Your first plan of action should be to put down the watering can. Do not give your plant anymore water as long as the soil is wet. For an overwatered philodendron that isn't experiencing root rot, mold in the soil, and other serious issues, then just cutting back on water may be enough to get your plant back on track.

Step 2: Let it Dry.

If this is your first time overwatering, then try to pour out any excess water on the top of the soil. Place your plant in a warmer area than usual for the day, and make sure the bottom of the pot has holes that allow the water to aerate.

Step 3: Prune.

If this isn't your first time overwatering and your plant is already showing serious signs of overwatering, then you may have to take more steps.

If you have dead or near-dead leaves, then you'll need to prune.

Using a sanitized blade, carefully cut off any dead or diseased leaves directly at the node. This will help the overall health of your plant in the long term.

Step 4: Repot.

Next, you'll need to inspect the roots for root rot. Gently remove your plant from its pot and check for dark, mushy roots at the bottom of the soil. Brush away the dirt and cut off all infected parts of each root to stop the spread of the rot. If the spread is severe, you may also need to apply a fungicide to the roots before repotting.

If you weren't using a well-draining soil mix before, then use one when you repot. This will help the water drain properly next time you go to water—which won't be for at least another week when your plant is dry again.

If root rot isn't an issue, then forego this step and repeat Step 1 until the plant's soil isn't soaked.

Step 5: Change Your Watering Habits.

Now that your philodendron is on track to regain its strength, it's time to make sure that you won't need to repeat these steps again. To prevent overwatering your philodendron, make sure to only water your plant when the soil is dry. The soil touch test is the best tool you can use to [prevent overwatering](#).

Congratulations! You've now successfully saved your overwatered philodendron.

Keywords: Overwatered Philodendron, how to tell if you've overwatered your philodendron, philodendron

Links to Sources: <https://www.hgtv.com/outdoors/flowers-and-plants/houseplants/2019/how-to-save-a-drowning-plant>

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Word Count: 1117

Plagiarism Check: 0%

Keyword Density: Overwatered Philodendron = 1.73%
how to tell if you've overwatered your philodendron = 0.38%