

After a heavy shower, allow flowers to drain before cutting them, then select sound stems and use clean, sharp shears. Be gentle with damp petals, remove spoiled parts, and stand the stems in clean water soon after bringing them indoors.

Wait for the garden to drain

When possible, wait for the rain to end and give the garden some time to dry. Flowers are simpler to assess once they are no longer dripping, and you are less likely to carry rainwater and loose garden debris inside in your bucket.

The morning is often a practical time to gather flowers, before the sun grows hot. There is no need to hurry if the garden remains soaked. Give the blooms more time to dry and cut them later if needed.

Some flowers may keep a damaged shape after a prolonged rainy spell. Look for stems that remain fairly upright and blooms whose petals are mostly whole. A bent stem or a small number of blemished outer petals does not automatically make a flower unsuitable for cutting.

Select stems with care

Take a look around the garden before cutting. Strong rain can press flowers down, splash soil onto foliage, and bruise or discolor petals. Favor clean, healthy blooms, and do not use flowers that are badly harmed or moldy in an arrangement.

Bring a clean bucket partly filled with water and a pair of sharp shears. Set up a clear place nearby where the bucket can rest while you work.

- Choose a stem length that will fit the vase you intend to use.
- Cut cleanly with the shears instead of crushing or pulling at the stem.
- Raise each flower with care and allow water to run off.
- Put each cut stem into the bucket as soon as you can.

Avoid shaking fragile blooms forcefully to get rid of water. Usually, a gentle tilt will remove enough. If wet petals are stuck together, leave them alone to dry instead of trying to separate them by hand.

Prepare the stems indoors

Bring the flowers inside and arrange the stems on a clean work surface. Take off any leaves that would be under the vase water, because foliage left submerged can dirty the water. Remove damaged leaves and petals that have begun to decay as well.

For sturdy stems or leaves with splashed soil, rinse them carefully with clean water. Use particular care near delicate petals. Handle the flowers gently rather than trying to make every bloom look flawless.

Clean the vase before adding fresh water. As you arrange the flowers, make a new cut on each stem and return it to the water promptly. Leave space between blooms so their forms remain visible and damp flower heads are not pressed against one another.

Care for the arrangement

Keep the vase in a cool place, away from direct sunlight and sources of heat. Inspect the flowers daily and remove any that are deteriorating. If the water turns cloudy, clean the vase and refill it with fresh water.

Rain can mark petals, but sturdy stems placed in clean water can still form an attractive display. Let the garden dry, choose the flowers that are in good condition, and bring indoors the blooms that are ready.

A useful next read: bouquets in home interiors