

# CARE GUIDE

## Kokedama

Kokedama is a centuries-old technique originating in Japan. With roots in Bonsai, it combines art and nature into a living, growing sculpture. Literally translated as 'Moss Ball,' Kokedama describes a plant with its roots suspended in soil, then wrapped in soft green moss. Since almost any plant can become Kokedama, most care instructions depend on that specific plant's needs. Find your Kokedama plant's needs in our other Botany plant care guides. The only Kokedama-specific care instructions you need to know involve how to water it, where to place it, and how to maintain it.

## Water

Knowing when to water your Kokedama relies a lot on feeling the weight of the moss ball. When you pick up the ball and it feels dry and hollow, almost like a wiffle ball, then it is time for watering. Place your kokedama in a bowl of water so the moss is submerged. Let it sit there for 10-20 minutes until it is saturated with water. Gently squeeze the moss to drain excess water, and leave to dry on a drying mat or drying rack until it stops dripping.

## Placement

Kokedama can be placed almost anywhere in the house, keeping in mind the plant's required light conditions. When deciding where to place your Kokedama, one thing to remember is that the moisture of your moss can be damaging to surfaces. We recommend placing Kokedama in saucers with pebbles or pumice stone, which protects your surfaces, helps with air circulation around the moss, and provides a stylized display for your home. Alternatively, you can also hang your Kokedama or mount it on a decorative board or piece of driftwood!

## Troubleshooting

What's that fuzzy white stuff growing on the surface of my moss? Not to worry, that happens usually after watering, and if there isn't sufficient air flow, causing a good environment for some fuzzy growth. You can easily treat this by dabbing a cotton ball with hydrogen peroxide on the growth, and then returning to the display.

Roots growing through the moss? It might be time to give your Kokedama a size-upgrade. Re-wrap it in a larger moss ball, adding more soil to the roots, almost like you're up-potting your plant! You can continue wrapping and re-wrapping your Kokedama as it grows, or you can plant it right back into a pot. The larger your Kokedama, the more challenging it will be to wrap it, due to size and weight; bringing a friend to help wrap your Kokedama is a fun and bonding activity to do together!

What to do if my Kokedama is generally unhappy? Once wrapped, your Kokedama may exhibit some transplant shock as it adjusts to its new home. If after one to three months there is no improvement, and you have already checked to make sure the light and water requirements of the plant itself have been met, you may need to unwrap your Kokedama and inspect the roots for damage. Your Kokedama may have been the wrong size for your plant, or your plant may have already been in a weakened state from pests or other stress that was making it harder to acclimate to its new mossy home.

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