



Clifton
NURSERIES

REPOTTING INDOOR PLANTS

A lot of houseplants prefer to become a little pot bound (full of root) before being re-potted. To check this, hold the plant low down close to its base and knock the edge of the pot gently with the palm of your hand so that you can examine the root ball. If however the plant is of a more fragile variety, with fingers spread over and across the top of the pot, invert the plant gradually and lightly tap the edges of the pot on the work surface. Both methods will remove the pot without damaging the roots. If there are lots of roots showing then it is time to repot. It is worth remembering to water the plant well the day before you plan to repot.

It is always best to go up one pot size at a time. Place some pieces of broken pot over the drainage holes to ensure adequate drainage. Now place a layer of compost in the pot, making sure that the plant will sit approximately 1" (2.5cm) below the rim with its existing soil level. Place the plant into the prepared pot after you have gently teased and unwoven some of the roots, filling the gap between the pot and roots with new compost. Gently press down the new compost with the tops of your fingers all around the circumference of the pot, ensuring that an even border is achieved. Make sure the new compost does not exceed the original level of compost, i.e. avoid new compost covering the base of the stems as they may rot. Water the plant enough so that it comes through the drainage holes at the base of the pot and top up the new compost if necessary.

An additional tip for small spiky cacti is to roll up a piece of newspaper into a strip about 1" wide and use this to wrap around the cacti, leaving either end free to use as a handle which will prevent those nasty little pricks!