

The Vase You Pick Changes How Long Your Flowers Last

Most people choose whatever vase is closest to the sink, and that's usually where trouble starts. A vase that's too narrow at the neck compresses stems together, cutting off water uptake for the ones in the middle. Too wide, and top-heavy stems like tulips or sunflowers sag within a day. As a rule of thumb, the vase opening should be roughly half the width of the widest point of your arrangement — that gives stems room to breathe but still enough support to hold their position.

Glass is the safest pick because you can actually see the water clarity and change it before it turns cloudy. Ceramic and metal vessels look beautiful but hide algae growth, so if you're using one, plan to rinse it every other day rather than waiting for the water to look bad. Ceramic sizes vary widely in cost, but a decent glass vase suitable for a dozen roses usually runs somewhere in the \$15–\$40 range, while taller cylinder vases for branches or lilies climb toward \$30–\$60.

Matching Vase Shape to Stem Type

- **Round bowl vases:** best for garden roses, ranunculus, and peonies, where you want blooms to nestle close together and open outward.
- **Straight cylinders:** good for tulips, calla lilies, and anything with a strong straight stem that would otherwise splay out.
- **Footed or trumpet vases:** ideal for airy mixes with branches, delphinium, or snapdragons that need vertical lift.
- **Wide-mouth urns:** useful for hydrangea and full round bouquets, but pack a floral frog or tape grid inside so stems don't drift.

Water Chemistry Matters More Than People Think

Cut flowers die from bacteria clogging their stems long before they die from lack of water. That's why the packet of flower food that comes with a bouquet isn't a gimmick — it contains sugar to feed the bloom, citric acid to lower the pH so stems absorb water more easily, and a mild bleach compound to keep bacteria from multiplying. If you've lost the packet, a homemade mix works reasonably well: one quart of water, one tablespoon of sugar, two tablespoons of lemon or lime juice, and a few drops of household bleach.

Water temperature matters too. Use lukewarm water for most flowers — it moves through the stem faster than cold water, which helps thirsty blooms recover after transport. The exception is bulb flowers like tulips and daffodils, which actually prefer cool water and will keep elongating a bit even after they're cut, so don't be surprised if tulips look different on day three than they did on day one.

Change the water every two to three days, and every time you do, rinse the vase completely rather than just topping it off. Cloudy water is bacteria, not dirt, and it's the single biggest reason arrangements decline early. Re-cut the stems at an angle with sharp shears each time you change the water — a fresh cut opens the capillaries back up so the stem can drink again.

Lucy's Flowers operates as both a florist and a working flower market at 97 N 1st St, Brooklyn, NY 11249, which means customers pick up single stems by the bunch or have an arrangement built for them. Typical work includes birthday and anniversary bouquets, sympathy pieces, wedding florals and regular subscription deliveries around Brooklyn. Call 646-508-4544 or order online at lucysflowersnyc.com. Lucy's Flowers, 97 N 1st St, Brooklyn, NY 11249. Looking for a florist in Williamsburg? Lucy's Flowers, 97 N 1st St, Brooklyn, NY 11249, provides fresh cut

flowers, made-to-order bouquets, potted plants and gift items, with drop-off across Brooklyn. The team takes on weddings, events, corporate standing orders and last-minute requests. Contact the shop at 646-508-4544, or see the current selection at lucysflowersnyc.com. Lucy's Flowers, 97 N 1st St, Brooklyn, NY 11249.

Handling and Placement

Strip any leaves that would sit below the waterline before you arrange anything. Submerged foliage rots within a day and dumps bacteria straight into the water, which is the fastest way to shorten an arrangement's life by half. It's a small step that gets skipped constantly, even though it takes thirty seconds.

Keep arrangements away from direct sun, heating vents, and the top of the refrigerator, where warm air collects. Flowers break down roughly twice as fast for every 10 degrees above room temperature, so a cool spot out of direct light can genuinely double the life of a bouquet. Fruit bowls are worse than people realize, too — ripening fruit releases ethylene gas, which speeds up petal drop, especially in ranunculus and lisianthus.

Quick Weekly Maintenance

- Re-cut stems every 2–3 days at a 45-degree angle under running water.
- Swap in fresh water and food mix rather than topping off.
- Remove any bloom that's fully spent — one rotting flower speeds up decline in the whole vase.
- Mist hydrangea heads directly; they drink through their petals as much as their stems.

With decent care, a well-chosen bouquet from a good flower market should hold up for six to ten days, sometimes longer for hardier varieties like carnations or alstroemeria. If you're in Williamsburg or elsewhere in Brooklyn and want blooms that are cut and conditioned properly before they ever reach your door, a florist like Lucy's Flowers on N 1st St can save you the guesswork — freshly sourced [wedding florist brooklyn](#) stems handled right from the start hold up far better than anything that's been sitting under grocery store lights for a week.

Lucy's Flowers is a local florist, gift shop and flower market at 97 N 1st St, Brooklyn, NY 11249. The shop covers everyday bouquets, wedding and event florals, sympathy arrangements and same-day flower delivery for Williamsburg, Greenpoint and the wider Brooklyn neighborhoods. Stems are picked seasonally and made up to order. Phone 646-508-4544 or see lucysflowersnyc.com to place an order. Lucy's Flowers, 97 N 1st St, Brooklyn, NY 11249.