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## Indoor Cactus Care

Many cacti adapt extremely well to living in the house where humidity is low (10-30 percent). They require only small amounts of water and fertilizer, but do need abundant light. They should be placed in a bright, sunny window. If you are limited on natural light, you can supplement by using artificial light. A cool white fluorescent tube or a combination of daylight and natural white fluorescent tubes will give you good results. Position lights six to twelve inches above the plants and keep them on for 14 to 16 hours a day.

Before watering your cactus, check to see if the soil is dry. Then water well, especially during the growing months (April through mid-September) and let the water drain out. In the winter, water sparingly, and allow your cactus to rest. It may only take a sip of water once a month if your cactus is in a sunny hot place. Adjust according to conditions. If your cactus shrivels a little in the winter, water just enough to keep that from happening. Southern and western exposure windows give cacti the sun that they need. You can store them in a north or east window in winter, but remember less sunlight means less water.

Give low nitrogen fertilizer sparingly, only about  $\frac{1}{4}$  of the label suggested amount, every other watering April through August especially if the cactus is getting good light and is growing. If you have your cactus outside during these months and only bring it in to overwinter it, do not fertilizer because winter is their dormant season. As the amount of light increases in the spring, so does the plant's need for water.

**Happy Gardening!**