
My Ultimate Cut Hydrangea Guide

Tips for choosing the right blooms, proper preparation techniques
and trouble shooting wilting flowers



 Celebrated Nest blog



Well,
Hello!

WELCOME TO CELEBRATED NEST BLOG

Thank you for signing up for my weekly newsletter!
I'm so glad you are here!

About the Blog

I'm Stephanie the creator of all things Celebrated Nest blog! On the blog I share ideas and inspiration to help you "refresh YOUR nest!" – our home is ever-changing and there is ALWAYS a project – or 2 or 3 or 4 – going on! I love sharing these projects with my readers!

At Celebrated Nest blog, you will find DIYs (big and small), home decor, shopping pages for my favorite things, and all things floral design.

Let's connect! You can find me on [Pinterest](#), [Instagram](#) and [Facebook](#) !

Introduction



Is there anything prettier than a vase full of hydrangea in full bloom? These fluffy romantic blooms are a favorite to many however they can be a bit finicky - if not downright dramatic. It seems the minute they lack water they flop like a victorian woman on her fainting couch. Not to worry, in this guide, I'm sharing my tips and tricks for choosing the best blooms, how to prepare them, and steps to take when your diva blooms start to head south!

So let's dive in!

Tips for buying or cutting the freshest blooms



Hydrangeas bloom locally here in Massachusetts during the summer, specifically right around the 4th of July however their availability from a retail standpoint seems to be almost year-round thanks to advancements in the floral importing industry. This is good news!

In this section, I am sharing best practices for cutting and prepping fresh hydrangea from the mother plant (garden hydrangeas) along with tips for choosing the freshest cut and steps to take when you buy fresh cut hydrangea from a florist or grocery store regardless of the time of year you purchase them.

Easy Prepping steps



Cutting hydrangea from the garden:

The best time of day to cut hydrangea from the garden is first thing in the morning before the summer heat comes in.

Before heading out to gather fresh blooms from your hydrangea bushes grab a bucket or a vase of water to place the cuttings in as you cut them.

To cut use handheld pruning shears, scissors or a floral design knife.

Look for mature blooms that are in full bloom, they will appear papery. Clip the stems at an angle and place them directly in the vessel of water.

The length of the stem that is cut is dependent on how you plan to use the flowers. For a tall vase application cut longer branches, for a small vase cut shorter stems.

Once you have collected your blooms, bring them inside and use one of the three prepping methods outlined below.



Easy Prepping steps



Choosing hydrangea from a grocery store or florist:

Look for fresh blooms that have bright green healthy foliage. The florets should have a stiff appearance and should not be transparent. Be sure to avoid blooms that are beginning to wilt.

Preparation technique 1

Once you are home or inside with your hydrangea begin your prep immediately. Choose your vase, fill it with tepid water and add flower food if you have it.

Strip the foliage from the stems. The foliage drinks up a lot of the water before it has hit the head of the blooms so removing them is always a good idea. If your design requires some foliage leave the top few leaves and strip the rest.

With clippers, scissors, or a floral design knife cut the stem at an angle. Place the stems on a hard surface and using a mallet or a hammer smash the bottom of the stems open. This allows for maximum water uptake as Hydrangeas are thirsty flowers! Place them in the prepared vase of water.



Easy prepping steps- other techniques



I typically follow the prepping technique above with great success however you may want to try your hand at two more techniques to find out what works best for you.

Preparation technique 2

Boil water on the stove and pour it into a cup. Follow the steps above in technique 1 then place each stem in the boiling water for 30 seconds before adding it to your arrangement..

Hydrangea stems produce a sap that can clog the stem and prevent water from getting to those beautiful blooms. The hot water breaks down the sap.

Preparation technique 3

Another way to prevent the sap from entering the stem is to use Alum Powder. Alum Powder is typically found in your spice aisle at the grocery store and is used for pickling. This powder will also deter the sap from entering the stem.

Follow technique 1 but instead of smashing the stems simply cut them at an angle and dip the stem in the alum powder then place them in your arrangement.



Trouble shooting wilting flower heads



Despite proper selection and following the prep steps listed above there is always the possibility - almost likelihood that one or more of your blooms will begin to wilt. This typically happens within hours after you have prepped them. The wilting is a result of the water not making it up to the head of the stem.

Fortunately, hydrangea is one of the few flowers that can take water in through the blossoms.

Due to this unique mechanism, you can often revive wilting hydrangea - not always... but most of the time making this technique I share below worth a try.

The steps are simple - when a bloom starts to droop, fill your sink with water. Take the wilting bloom out of the vase and give it a fresh cut. Then lay the entire stem in the sink and gently submerge it. Then let the stem float in the water until it comes back to life. The key to success here is to do this process as soon as you notice the wilting, don't wait too long. Most stems will bounce back in an hour or so. After this time, if the blooms are still wilted keep the blooms floating in the sink overnight.

It is rare to have to repeat this process but do so if needed. Once the blossom is revitalized place it back in the arrangement and enjoy!

Thank You!

I hope you found this cut hydrangea ebook helpful!
Please let me know if you have any questions, my contact information
is listed below.



Want more great content?

Join me on social media.



Copyright © 2023 - Celebrated Nest blog

All rights reserved. No portion of this book may be reproduced in any form without
permission from the publisher, except as permitted by U.S. copyright law. For
permissions contact: stephanie@celebratednest.com