

# THATCH FLOWERS

## Litlington

### *Care advice*

#### *Step-by-step*

*Good care is crucial to maximise the vase life of your flowers.*

*Here is my step-by-step guide on how best to look after them.*

At the very earliest possible opportunity, and preferably immediately upon receipt:

1. Select a glass vase or glazed ceramic vase suitable for the size of arrangement you have received. These are preferable to metal or plastic containers as bacteria find it harder to survive within them.
2. Ensure your vase is clean by washing it with washing-up liquid or bleach, neither of which will harm your flowers, and rinsing it thoroughly.
3. Fill your vase with cool water and add a pinch (less is more!) of Thatch Flowers' Cut Flower Food, give it a stir and leave the vase to one side to allow the food to dissolve.
4. Avoid handling your flowers a lot. Try to hold them at the arrangement's bind-point (the string) wherever possible and never handle their heads unless absolutely necessary. Excessive handling can bruise your blooms, resulting in disappointing longevity.
5. Carefully remove all packaging from your flowers, including the aqua bubble if one has been used. Packaging when left in place for several days can cause bacteria to grow, which shortens the life of your flowers.
6. For the time being, do not remove the string as this is holding the bouquet together in its arranged shape. This can be removed a little later (see step 9).
7. Holding the arrangement at the bind-point, cut approx. 2-3cm at an angle from the base of each stem using a sharp and clean pair of scissors or secateurs. Cutting at an angle will result in a larger surface area from which your flowers can drink.
8. Remove any leaves from the stems that will be below the waterline in the vase. Leaving them in situ would shorten the life of your flowers by decaying in the water, encouraging bacteria to grow.
9. Still holding the arrangement at the bind point, carefully snip away the string, keeping your hand at the bind point to support the flowers as arranged.
10. Place the bouquet in the vase and gently finesse your flowers as desired. Display them somewhere away from draughts, direct sunlight, heat sources and ripening fruit – all of these factors can reduce the longevity of your display.
11. At least every 2 days, re-cut the stems, clean the vase and change the water.
12. Remove old leaves and dead stems as soon as you notice them, to prevent bacteria from growing in the water.

Enjoy your gift!

Libby