How to plant a HOUSEPLANT

STEP 1
Gather supplies:
• Sterile potting soil
• A pot 1-2 inches larger in diameter than existing pot
• Saucer to place under pot to catch excess water
• Watering can

STEP 2
Make sure the new pot has a drainage hole. It's possible to drill holes in the bottom of a pot if it doesn't have any.

STEP 3
Place a small rock, clay pottery shard, or a piece of screen or fabric mesh, over hole to allow water drain but prevent soil from washing out.

STEP 4
Add a layer of potting soil at least an inch deep in bottom of pot.

STEP 5
Gently remove plant from its old pot.

STEP 6
Remove any dead or yellow leaves to tidy up the plant. Shake away some of the old soil and gently pry apart the roots if they are very compacted.

STEP 7
Place the plant in the new pot and fill the sides with fresh soil. Lightly press the soil into the pot and around the roots to remove air pockets. Leave a half-inch to an inch of space between the top of the soil and the pot rim so there is room for water.

STEP 8
Water thoroughly, just until the water drains out the bottom of the pot. Monitor your plant's water needs until you figure out its schedule. Use your finger to feel the soil; when the top inch of soil is dry then it's time to water again.

STEP 9
To keep your plants healthy, feed regularly with a general purpose plant food designed for houseplants according to the package directions. Plants should be repotted every 1-2 years to refresh the soil and give the roots plenty of room to grow.

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