

# How and when to transplant a rose bush.

Roses transplant well in winter or early spring while they are dormant and not looking for any nourishment from the soil. However, circumstances may arise that require moving blooming roses. This is a slightly more complex transplant but can be managed with a little bit of planning and care.



## Dormant Transplanting

- Winter prune your rose as per normal and clean up the area around the plant.
- Using a spade cut a circle around your rose about 45cm in diameter, the larger the better.
- Angle your spade slightly toward the plant to make the job of pulling it out easier. You will not need to cut directly under the plant though.
- Reach down and remove the rose out by the base of the plant, shaking the soil from the roots.
- Place the rose roots first into a bucket of fresh water. It is important to keep the roots moist until moved into its new spot.
- A good tip is to balance the top growth of the plant to the size of roots you have left. This means trimming the top part of the plant to match the size of the root structure. This places less stress on the root system when new growth starts in spring.
- You can then plant as a bare root rose in the new location.



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## Transplanting a blooming rose

- Dead head the rose plant and water well daily four to seven days before transplanting the rose. [See our handy guide on how to dead head a rose.](#) The aim is fully hydrate the rose and divert energy from seed production to root establishment.
- Prune any crossing, dead, damaged or diseased branches at a 45-degree angle, just above a growth node or leaf that is facing outward.
- Angle your spade slightly toward the plant to make the job of pulling it out easier. You will not need to cut directly under the plant though.
- Transplant your rose bush on a cool, overcast day. This will reduce the water uptake required to sustain the foliage and blooms. If you strike a root, cut them with secateurs and carry on digging. Using a shovel, lever up the rose and remove from the ground, keeping as much of the soil around the roots as possible.
- At your selected spot dig a hole in the new location that is 5 to 10 cm wider than the root ball and 40cm to 50cm deep.
- Mix compost into the soil from the hole to provide nutrients for the actively growing rosebush, creating a mixture that is one part compost to one part soil. Add some of the mixture to the hole, making a small mound for the roots to settle into.
- Place your rosebush upright and centred in the prepared hole. Align the plant's roots over the mound and set it at the same height it previously was in its old position.
- Add a few cm of soil to the hole and carefully tramp it down around the roots to firm and remove any air pockets. Continue with a few cm at a time until it is between a third to half full. Water and allow it to drain completely. Keep adding soil to the hole until it is full and even with the surrounding surface.
- Build a mound a few cm high with soil around the perimeter of the planted root ball to create a reservoir for water. Fill with water, and let it drain.
- Keep the soil moist but not waterlogged until new growth starts to develop. Once established resume to a more appropriate watering schedule for the conditions.

