

# How to Make a Large Ceremony Urn

Ceremony Urns can be made on day 2 or 3. Be sure to fill the vase with water to keep the foam hydrated. If you have time on the wedding day you can make them on site so you don't have to transport a full urn.



## Choose Your Container

Plastic design urns are our favs, but anything with a 7-9" diameter would be great! We sell the white plastic urn (left) on our [DIY Flower Supply Store!](#) Short vases like the white one need to be placed on a table or a stand. The gold vase (right) is about 3 feet tall and can stand on its own. However, vases like these tend to be pricey. When standing at the ceremony you want the flowers to either be about 1 foot above your head or between about shoulder-hip level.



## Gather Your Supplies

The supplies needed for a ceremony urn are: container/vase, snips, foam, and waterproof tape.

Soak the foam. Ideally, you should let your foam completely soak in a bucket of water. However, this foam will be put into an urn that also holds water. In this case, it's alright to just run it under the sink for awhile. Be sure that you thoroughly fill the vase so the foam (and flowers) stay hydrated.



## Fit the foam to your vase

For this vase it worked well to stand 1 brick of foam upright. However, that may not be the case for all vases. You may need to turn the foam on its side and cut it to fit, or use two bricks to fully fill the vase. To cut, set the foam on top of the urn and press down lightly to make marks to use as a guide for cutting the foam. Using a knife, cut the foam along those lines. Squeeze the cut foam tightly into the urn, leaving about 1" sticking out from the top so that you can place stems around the sides, angled downwards.



## Tape Foam Into Urn

Since urn arrangements are so top heavy, it's really important that you tape the foam to the container to hold it in place. Use waterproof tape to form an X on top of the foam, securing it to the urn.

*Note: For extra support we also could have added extra pieces of foam in the gaps to keep the main foam in place. However, we did not need to move the urn much for this photo shoot.*



## Set your parameters

Decide how tall and wide you want the urn to be with your greenery. These will likely be right next to you during the ceremony so you want them to be about 3 times the size of your head to feel impressive.

Since ceremony urns are typically one-sided, you can form the base how you'd like it to look from one side, but be sure to not leave the back totally flat.



## Make a base of greenery

Start with your thickest, densest greenery first such as Leatherleaf or Salal and fill out from the base in a beach ball shape towards you. Don't forget to angle some greenery down in the front to cover the foam. You may need to squat down to see if you can see the foam from a lower angle, especially if this is going to be above your head at the venue.

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Transport tip: our short urns are easy to transport if you buckle them into the passenger or back seats. If you want a tall vase try to find one with an insert/foam holder so the vase and arrangement can be packed separately.



## Fill in more greenery

Next fill in with your luxury greens like Eucalyptus or Olive Branches and fill in any holes.

You don't want to see any foam or holes in the greenery. The key to keeping these types of arrangements inexpensive but still impressive is a large base of greenery.

When inserting the stems into the foam, try not to make too many adjustments so that the foam stays intact.



## Check the back of the Urn

Most likely your urn is going to be against a wall, not the center of a round table. So there is no need to make the back fancy. Don't worry about using your luxury greens here (and definitely no flowers).

Just fill that in with the bulky greens to make sure the urn is balanced and the foam is not visible from any angle. It doesn't have to be pretty - no one sees this!



## Start With Large Blooms

Start with one type of large bloom first (such as roses) and disperse through the urn, leaving stems long. (A good urn recipe likely has 1-2 types of roses and 1-2 types of carnations as the main filler flower.) Vary the heights of your stems - some can be deeper and lower and some higher to add depth. Always keep the flowers on different planes, meaning that some should face the audience and some can come out the side. Don't forget to add some blooms on the bottom as well! (Hydrangeas are also a great large filler!)



## Fill in with smaller accents

Next, fill in with your smaller flowers. (These are optional. You can keep the urn recipe similar with just roses and carnations.) Add flowers like Spray Roses, Lisianthus, Mini Carnations, or Cushion Poms. Even though the buds are small, the stems are still long. Stay away from things like Ranunculus and Anemones that only have short stems.

Also, you can add other texture items like Baby's Breath, Wax Flower, Delphinium, Solidago, etc.



## Check for gaps

Check the entire arrangement for gaps and holes. Check for places you can still see the foam or can see the tape over the edge of the vase. Don't forget to look at the arrangement at different heights and angles. Add greenery angled down to cover any exposed tape.

Make sure the colors and flower types are evenly dispersed and the arrangement looks balanced. For asymmetrical designs, just make sure you like how it looks!



## Refill the vase

Using the sink or a watering can, refill your vase. Make sure the foam stays hydrated.

You can make the urns on either day 2 or 3, so make sure the flowers still have plenty of water until the wedding day.

To transport your urns, pour out the water right before you put it in the car. Refill the vase as soon as you get to the venue.