



Thank you for your purchase! You are allowing me to stay home with my little ones for a bit longer and we all thank you for that!

PLANTING YOUR FAVORS:

- 1) **UNPACK YOUR PLANTS ASAP.** TO SAVE YOU ON TOTAL COSTS YOUR PLANTS MAY BE SHIPPING SEPARATELY FROM MY SUPPLIER. Below are steps to plant your favors. This is similar to the steps to plant my wine bottle planters. To see the similar wine bottle planting **video** please go to www.YouTube.com and enter in "Looking Sharp Cactus" or type in <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC5yZ66YfQ-e5M1pelFqsEjw/videos>
- 2) Place newspaper on your work table for easy clean up as you assemble your favors.
- 3) Layout bags of soil and decorative pebbles on your work surface/table. (Not all soil or decorative rock may fit in your planter because I tend to ship you extra.)
- 4) Carefully unwrap plants and lay on the newspaper.
 - Handle your succulents gently. You can cradle their roots in your hand to move them. If holding the roots make sure the plant is well supported and NOT held upside down by the roots. This could cause the roots to separate from the plant.
 - ** Some succulents will lose a few leaves in travel or when handled. Just let the leaf dry for a day then you can plant full sized leaves broken tip down in well-draining soil or simply lay them on the top of the soil. Not every leaf will grow a new plant but many will and you will have several FREE new plants! Plant leaves in a separate container and leave in dry soil until roots start to grow. Once roots start you can water them. Root may appear like small pink hairs. When they have grown larger only water them when the soil is completely dry. Succulent leaves root best in spring, summer and fall. Keep them warm and sunny for best results. **
 - Some soil will be loose and could be on your plants after their travels. Just blow lightly to remove loose soil from leaves. (Best done after plant is in planter.)
- 5) Place one plant in the metal pail and see how much soil will be needed under the plant to have the plant at your desired height in the metal planter. I suggest planting the succulents below the rim of the pail so you have room at the end to add decorative pebbles.
- 6) Take out the succulent you were using to measure amount of soil needed. Add a small amount of succulent soil to the bottom of your metal pail. You are adding just enough so the succulent will be the height you desire in the pail.
- 7) Now place the succulent on top of this small amount of soil. Hold it in place with one hand while your other hand adds pinches of soil around the sides of the root ball until the plant can stand up by itself. You may need to lightly press on the soil surface so the soil is slightly packed in.
- 8) Use a pencil or small stick to GENTLY maneuver soil in any tight crevices. Be careful not to poke the plant's roots too much.
- 9) Now you should have one plant in the pail. Soil is around and under the plants roots and enough room left on top of the plant to add pinches of decorative pebbles.
- 10) Now you are ready to add your decorative pebbles or your own moss, marbles, crushed shells... on top of the soil. I would do this over your newspaper or an empty box. Place each rock with your fingers and maneuvering them with your pencil into place. You can slightly press the rocks into the soil to help them stay in place.

- 11) Now that the plants are in the pails you can ever so gently trickle water on to each plant and the soil surface to help the soil settle more. I would do this outside as water will come out the bottom of the pail (if you ordered with drainage holes). Also a few pebbles may fall and you don't want these in your sink.
- 12) Most people order the favors with a drainage hole in the bottle. If you ordered a pail without a drainage hole you need to trickle water on the soil enough to wet the roots but not so much that you have mushy wet soil. Favors without drainage can be overwatered causing the succulents to drown....

CARING FOR YOUR LIVING FAVORS:

Watering Your Favors:

- Succulents are VERY tough plants but you can kill them by over OR under watering them. It's a misconception that succulents don't need much water. To encourage healthy roots completely soak all of the soil. Then allow the soil to completely dry out before you water again. You can use a moisture meter or even a pencil to see if the soil is dry all the way down. Only water your new succulent friends when the soil is dry all the way to the bottom of the pail. Your planter will feel lighter once all the water is gone and then it's time to water again.
- You can rot succulents by over watering them. So allow the soil to dry between waterings. When in doubt don't water! It's best to keep your plants a little dehydrated than to kill them with kindness/water! It's also easier to save a plant that is under-watered than to save a plant you over watered.
- Do NOT water with a spray bottle! If you water by spraying you will create thin roots that die easily and you will likely underwater.
- Start with watering once a week. Then adjust slowly. Water less often in the winter and more often in the summer/heat.
- Overwatered? The leaves fall off easily or look yellow/transparent/mushy or wet. Black around stem/leaves can be rot.
- Under watered? Leaves may look limp/soft/wrinkled especially on the top/new growth. It's normal for the older/bottom leaves to die as the plant goes through its life cycle. If many leaves are drying up you may need to increase how often or how deep you are watering.
- There are guides, with photos, on the internet to show you what plants that are over and under watered look like. You can find helpful articles about succulents, with great pictures, on my friend Cassidy's website <http://www.succulentsandsunshine.com/>

Lighting / Where to Put the Favors:

- Succulents prefer filtered but very bright light. If the light is not bright enough succulents will turn green/discolor and elongate to reach the light. Some colorful species may lose their bright colors without enough light or due to time of year/temperatures. Most succulents can tolerate full sunlight but some can sunburn with full afternoon sun on a hot day. Place in a location that is sunny part of the day. Most succulents prefer morning and or evening sunlight then full or partial shade (50% shade) during the afternoon. Succulents from a greenhouse or those that have been growing inside may need to slowly be given more sunlight.
- Places to place your garden - A sunny tabletop, kitchen window, sunny desktop, under a grow light... You can also place your planter on a covered WARM patio with mostly indirect sunlight.
- Protect your succulent babies from extreme hot and cold temperatures. Succulents will freeze if left in a cold area.
- If all goes well your succulents should provide happiness for weeks to months. Even longer if you have a green thumb! And you can always add new plants.

Enjoy and feel free to email me with any question or suggestion! LookingSharpCactus@gmail.com

If you would like a coupon for your next order (before shipping) just post a picture of your new planter with your Etsy review or place on my Facebook page. Then email me for a coupon code. <https://www.facebook.com/lookingsharpactus/>

