

HOW TO KEEP YOUR FLOWERS FRESH UNTIL YOU SHIP OR DELIVER THEM:

- **Keep in Water.** Have a vase at your head table to keep your flowers in water during the reception. After the wedding, keep them in water until you deliver or ship. If you're sending your hubby's boutonniere, consider removing it from his jacket during the reception (once pictures are done). Chances are his jacket will end up on a chair somewhere and his boutonniere will get smashed.
- **Be Gentle.** These will more than likely be the most beautiful flowers you've ever seen, and you may want to love on them. But be gentle! Too much touching can bruise the petals. You won't be able to see the bruising while they are fresh and even while they are dry. But once they are submerged in resin, the bruising, or translucent spots, will become visible. Also, avoid swinging your bouquet around like a cheerleader's pompom. This can not only cause bruising but could damage the stems so they are unable to take on water. Love them. Stare at them. Be gentle with them!
- **Trim the Stems.** Trim the stems about 1/4-1/2" and change the water every day until shipping or delivery.
- **Dark and Cool.** Keep your flowers out of direct sunlight and in a cool room; refrigerate if possible. The refrigerator must not contain fruits or veggies as they emit gases that will prematurely age your flowers.

IF YOU ARE LOCAL AND DROPPING OFF THE BOUQUET.

- **Schedule a Delivery Date/Time.** Unless I contact you directly, bouquet receipts may be made 7 days a week. The sooner we receive your bouquet, the fresher the blooms will be, the better they will dry, and the more amazing your finished pieces will be.
- Please note, my studio is a private art studio, not a storefront. **An appointment is required for drop-offs.** Appointments must be requested no less than 24 hours in advance.
- **Address.** Please deliver to the following address:
Nancy Dunson Designs
100 Smith Street, Suite 2
LaGrange, GA 30240

STEP BY STEP INSTRUCTIONS TO SHIP YOUR FLOWERS

Large NEW Box. Just a little bigger than your actual bouquet, arrangement or grouping of flowers. It's also best to use a new box. Used boxes are more likely to crush in transit. FedEx and UPS both have shipping boxes you can purchase.



Packing the Bouquet Yourself vs FedEx or UPS. The employees at the shipping locations may offer to pack your bouquet for you. Sometimes they do well, most of the time they do not! Just think to yourself, "Do they have the same vested interest in the condition of my flowers as I do?"

Packing Materials. I recommend good quality tissue paper (like gift wrap tissue paper) or packing peanuts. Please DO NOT use bubble wrap, plastic trash bags or other plastic. Please, please, please **DO NOT USE PLASTIC!!** Don't do it! Plastic will not protect your flowers; it will create heat and basically cook your flowers. This photo shows flowers that were wrapped in an outer layer of bubble wrap. They were virtually unusable.



Packing Tape.

Paper Towel, Sandwich Baggie & Rubber Band. It is best to send your bouquet completely intact. The flowers will protect one another. In this case, lightly dampen the paper towel and wrap around the end of the stems. Paper towel should not be dripping wet, just a little damp. Place the sandwich baggie over the paper towel and use a rubber band to secure the bag on the end of the stems, covering the paper towel. See image to the right.



Create a "Nest". Place a good layer of tissue paper on the bottom of the box to create somewhat of a nest. Lay the bouquet in the box and carefully tuck the tissue paper around the bouquet so it's nested in the tissue. Lightly lay crumpled tissue paper on top so there is minimal movement in transit. See image to the left. Please note, the small plastic baggie should be the only plastic in the box.

Plastic Floral Watering Tubes. Although I highly recommend shipping your bouquet completely intact, I understand sometimes that is not possible. So, if you are sending loose stems, these tubes will keep them hydrated during shipping and will help prevent water leakage. You can ask your florist if they can get some, otherwise Hobby Lobby and Amazon also have them.

Add a piece of paper at the top of the box with your name on it. We often receive multiple bouquets in a single day. Having your name readily available will keep us from having to track you down. Also, if you have included accessories (boutonniere, pictures, charms, cake topper, etc.) to be added to your piece, mention that as well. We would hate to miss something that cannot be replaced. If we know it's there, we will look for it! If we've not been notified, chances are it will end up in the recycling.

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SHIPPING CARRIER WARNING!

This is the most important because no matter how carefully you pack, if the shipment is delayed, your flowers could possibly arrive brown and even rotted, and we won't be able to preserve them.

Most carriers will not pick up or deliver over the weekend. If your wedding is on a Friday or Saturday, it's best to wait until Monday to pack your bouquet.

You **MUST** send the flowers via UPS or FEDEX and a level of service that can guarantee next day/overnight delivering early am or by 2pm, if possible. Yes, this is the more expensive route but the quicker we get your flowers, the better they will look and the better they will dry. This in turn will make your preservation pieces even better. There is a lot I can do to help the flowers look good, but if they are dead upon arrival, I cannot bring them back to life.

Email your tracking number to us so we can keep an eye on your shipment progress. Our address is a commercial location and if I'm not here, the shipping carrier **WILL NOT** leave the package!

IF YOUR FLOWERS ARE PRE-DRIED.

Large NEW Box. Just a little bigger than your actual bouquet, arrangement or grouping of flowers. It's also best to use a new box. Used boxes are more likely to crush in transit. FedEx and UPS both have shipping boxes you can purchase.

Packing the Bouquet Yourself vs FedEx or UPS. The employees at the shipping locations may offer to pack your bouquet for you. Sometimes they do well, most of the time they do not! Just think to yourself, “Do they have the same vested interest in the condition of my flowers as I do?”

Packing Materials. I recommend good quality tissue paper (like gift wrap tissue paper) or packing peanuts. Please DO NOT use bubble wrap, plastic trash bags or other plastic. Plastic will not protect your flowers; it will create heat and humidity and basically cook your flowers. Even though your flowers are already dry, it’s still not a good idea. Don’t do it!

Packing Tape.

Create a “Nest”. Lightly wrap each flower with tissue paper if they are all loose. Place a good layer of tissue paper on the bottom of the box to create somewhat of a nest. Lay the bouquet in the box and carefully tuck the tissue paper around the bouquet so it’s nested in the tissue. Lightly lay crumpled tissue paper on top so there is minimal movement in transit. See image #2 below. Please note, the small plastic baggie should be the only plastic in the box.

Add a piece of paper at the top of the box with your name on it. We often receive multiple bouquets in a single day. Having your name readily available will keep us from having to track you down. Also, if you have included accessories (boutonniere, pictures, charms, cake topper, etc.) to be added to your piece, mention that as well. We would hate to miss something that cannot be replaced. If we know it’s there, we will look for it! If we’ve not been notified, chances are it will end up in the recycling.

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SHIPPING CARRIER WARNING!

Please still use UPS or FEDEX and email your tracking number so we can keep an eye on your shipment progress.