

Bottom watering is an excellent technique to ensure even water distribution to the roots of your houseplants, especially when using tap water that has been stored for 24 hours. Here are some tips for bottom watering your plants effectively and why using nursery pots is helpful:

### **Tips for Bottom Watering with Stored Tap Water:**

- 1. Prepare the Water:**
  - Let your tap water sit for 24 hours to allow chlorine and other chemicals to dissipate. The water should be at room temperature, which is ideal for the plant roots.
- 2. Choose a Suitable Container:**
  - Use a shallow dish, tray, or basin that is larger than the pot. The container should be deep enough to hold water but not submerge the entire plant.
- 3. Place the Pot in the Water:**
  - Place your houseplant pot (with drainage holes) into the container of water. Ensure that the bottom of the pot is submerged in the water by about 1–2 inches (2.5–5 cm), but avoid submerging the sides of the pot. This allows the roots to absorb water from the bottom, promoting even hydration.
- 4. Let It Soak:**
  - Allow the pot to sit in the water for about 10 to 30 minutes, depending on the size of the pot and the dryness of the soil. During this time, the soil will absorb water through the drainage holes. The water should begin to be absorbed into the soil from the bottom up.
- 5. Check Soil Moisture:**
  - After the soaking time, check if the soil feels evenly moist. If it's still dry, you can leave the pot in the water for a little longer. If the soil is already moist, remove the pot from the water.
- 6. Drain Excess Water:**
  - Once the soil is adequately moistened, remove the pot from the water and allow any excess water to drain away. Make sure there's no standing water in the bottom of the container (saucer or tray) under the plant. Standing water can lead to root rot.
- 7. Avoid Overwatering:**
  - Bottom watering helps prevent overwatering because it encourages the plant to take in only as much water as it needs. However, ensure you don't let the pot sit in water for extended periods, as it may cause the roots to rot.

### **Why Use Nursery Pots?**

#### **1. Proper Drainage:**

- Nursery pots, typically made of plastic, have multiple drainage holes that allow excess water to escape. This prevents water from collecting at the bottom, which is essential to avoid root rot. In contrast, decorative pots often lack drainage or have minimal holes.

#### **2. Easy to Squeeze Out Excess Water:**

- Nursery pots are flexible, making it easy to gently squeeze them to help expel excess water from the soil. If you notice that the soil has soaked up too much water during bottom watering, you can give the nursery pot a gentle squeeze to help release the excess moisture. This ensures that your plant doesn't sit in overly wet conditions for too long.

### **3. Root Health:**

- The porous nature of nursery pots (combined with proper drainage) helps promote air circulation around the roots, reducing the likelihood of waterlogging and improving overall root health. The flexibility of the pot makes it easier to inspect the roots and adjust watering if necessary.

### **Conclusion:**

Bottom watering is an efficient way to hydrate houseplants, especially when using stored tap water. Using nursery pots is crucial for promoting healthy root development by ensuring proper drainage, making it easier to control water levels, and allowing for air circulation. These pots also give you the flexibility to manage excess water more effectively. Squeeeeeeeeze that water out!