

## Obstructions and Distance

A south window which faces a building 10 feet away is **not** a high-light window! But some obstructions can be useful: A south window with some trees might not be the place to grow cacti, but it could be perfect for ferns.

What if you love peace lilies but only have hot south or west windows? Not to worry! Light intensity decreases with distance from the window, so you can grow these several feet away.

A west wall a few feet away from a south window will get morning light but be safely shaded from the scorching afternoon sun.

Also remember: light travels in a straight line, so beside a window is not the same as in a window!



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## Symptoms of Light Problems

When a plant gets **too little light**, it “reaches” for the light, growing long, thin (and flimsy) stems between leaves. In nature, this could help it outrace competing plants, or get up through another plant that had fallen onto it.

But in a dim window, it’s a never-ending story. You’ll end up with spindly, sickly plants, or cacti that grow thin and floppy. Eventually they’ll die - either from light starvation, or because you chuck them!

**Solution:** Choose the right plant for your available light. Or, if you only have north windows and love cacti, it’s time to invest in grow lights.

If a plant is getting **too much light**, the leaves may appear pale and washed out instead of rich green. In extreme cases, the leaves may actually burn, leading to brown or yellow spots. If you see spots *only* on the sun-facing side of a plant, sunburn is the culprit.

**Solution:** Move plant to a different window, or slowly move it away from the window, a foot at a time.

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# The Right Light for your Houseplant

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All plants need light; it’s the vital factor in keeping your plants alive and healthy. So when choosing plants, it’s important to consider the light requirements of the plants you want to grow, as well as how much light your different windows receive.



We want you to be successful, so if you aren’t sure about a plant’s light requirements, just ask! There are no “dumb questions!”

*The Indoor Sun Shoppe*

