

# Home Alone

**Christmas holidays often spell disaster for container plants. Before you go away on holiday take some evasive action to protect them from heat and water stress.**

- Water storage granules help both indoor and outdoor container plants through summer. If repotting, add them in gel form along with a wetting agent such as Saturaid (top brand potting mixes often contain these products). Otherwise you can apply them to existing pots, ideally a few weeks before you go on holiday. For water storage granules - poke holes a few centimetres deep in the mix and drop just a few granules into each hole. Cover and water thoroughly.
- Thoroughly soak plants about a week before you go. Immerse pots in a sink filled with water until the bubbles stop rising.
- Move them to a cool room with indirect light. Moving large plants outside under the shade of trees will give them a break from their hot and sticky confines and they will benefit from the fresh air.
- Water again, thoroughly, the day before you leave for holiday.
- Grouping outdoor pots away from direct sun and wind will cut down on water loss – and makes things easier if you have someone coming to water.



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