

Grossy's Guide to Tulips



What You'll Need:

Bundle of cut tulips, from any market you can get them, including the Supermarket!

Vase or vases

White vinegar or dish soap

Cold water

Scissors or knife

What You'll Do:

1. Place your bundle of cut flowers in a clean bucket or vase of cold water until you are able to prep them for the vase. It's best to cut the bottoms fresh while they wait for you!
2. Unwrap tulips. Remove all dirt and leaves or debris from bottom of stem. No leaves should be in water, as it creates a bacteria party that will kill your flowers fast, and we are not murderers.
3. Arrange tulips flat in a row so heads are all in the same direction.
4. Cut off ends so they are level and have a clean fresh cut to drink water through.
5. Pick your vase! The only rule here is that tulips should be at least twice the length of your vase so choose wisely.
6. Wait! Before you place your stems inside, make sure to clean your vase well. Like I said, bacteria is the number one enemy so use dish soap and white vinegar to give your vases a good solid clean. Truth be told, mine had not been cleaned in a very long time and... just wow.
7. Take stems in your hand and twist so when you plop into vase they fan out in a spiral. This gives you a gorgeous splay of flowers in all directions. Of course, you can do the organic PLOP into the vase, let them fall naturally and watch as they grow and twist organically!
8. Wait and watch as your tulips move and grow into their home. They will perk up and stand tall, they just need a minute. You JUST gave them their morning bath and coffee!

9. Now that your tulips are STUNNING in their new home, YOU MUST CHANGE WATER DAILY. Every single day, you will take the tulips out of the vase, clean the vase, and add fresh cold water to it. Slightly snip tulip stems before you put them back in to the vase each time (remember, the tulips will continue to grow in the vase up to 6 more inches). A fresh snip gives them an unclogged and bacteria-free straw to drink through!
10. Follow all of the above and your tulips will last a week, if not longer!

Bonus Tips:

- If you have an event coming up and you want your closed tulips to be perfect for the event, place them in vase 3 days the event!
- In an emergency, warm water will force closed tulips open. You can also reflex tulips, which means you peel back the petals and force the tulip to be open.
- For straighter tulips you should keep the tulips bundled overnight as this will strengthen tulips in a straight line.

Grossy's Mom Tips:

I asked Amy if she would tell me why the Mom Tips I have been hearing and spreading for years exist. Here is what she had to say:

Pennies: Pennies are made of copper. Copper is naturally antibacterial, which as we know is a tulip's worst enemy. The issue here is that after 1982, pennies went from being made of 95% copper to just 2.5% copper!

Ice cube: As we just learned, tulips love cold water. A little known fact is that ice cubes are made of cold water! Amy says, sure, you can add an ice cube, but cold water is truly all you need and will do the job for you. Save your ice cubes for a nice cold drink!

Vodka or 7-Up: Flowers love a little sugar, but this also leads to bacterial growth. So to properly add sugar, you need to start adding antibacterial elements to work. It just gets too complicated and it's not worth it overall.

Aspirin: Mixing a crushed Aspirin into your vase allegedly lowers the pH level of the water allowing it to travel through the tulip faster. In turn, this prevents wilting. *Allegedly*. Amy says to save your aspirin for something more important, like your hangover.

Homemade Flower Food: Amy acknowledges the need that some people have to add things to their flowers, and offered that she has a great homemade flower food recipe. For tulips, she still says that cold fresh water daily is your best bet. For the overachievers in the class, here is her recipe:

Amy's Homemade Flower Food:

1 teaspoon sugar

1 teaspoon bleach

2 teaspoons lemon or lime juice

1 quart lukewarm water

Pre-measure your sugar, bleach, and lemon or lime juice. Pour the quart of water into a bowl. Add ingredients and stir to dissolve. Add as much water as needed into the vase and add flowers. Dispose of any extra. Add this to your vase with fresh water every other day.