

Chrysanthemums and carnations are good choices for office flowers because, with attentive care, they can stay attractive for two weeks or longer. Use a vase that can be washed and reused, keep the water fresh, and remove fading blooms instead of replacing the whole arrangement.

Pick blooms that stay fresh longer

Chrysanthemums make a dependable base for a workplace arrangement. Their sturdy stems and firm flowers can look good for at least two weeks, and just a few stems can fill a vase without needing lots of extra foliage. If one flower starts to fade, take off that bloom and leave the rest of the stem in place.

Carnations also tend to last about two weeks in a vase. Their compact flower heads suit a small spot, such as the shared desk where people set down their mugs or a reception counter. Look for stems with firm blooms and leaves that appear healthy.

Alstroemeria generally keeps for one to two weeks. Each stem carries several buds that open at different times, so the arrangement changes gradually. Pinch off older flowers as they fade, allowing the unopened buds to remain part of the display.

Cut orchids may last for several weeks, though the variety and care conditions affect how long they hold up. A small number of stems can make a simple arrangement. Since their vase life differs, ask how long the specific flowers are expected to last.

Arrange flowers while using less

Before buying a new container, check whether the office already has a vase. Otherwise, choose something durable that can be cleaned and used again. A vase with a narrow opening can keep stems in position without floral foam. For a wider opening, a reusable flower frog can help support them.

Buy a quantity that suits the space rather than filling every available surface. A modest bunch is simpler to care for and leaves room for the stems in the water. Ask for as little packaging as possible, and reuse clean paper or containers when that is practical.

Flowers grown nearby and in season may involve less transport or fewer growing needs, but local origin alone does not guarantee the smallest impact. How flowers are grown, transported and stored also matters. A florist or grower may be able to describe how the available stems were produced.

Care for the arrangement through the workweek

Start with a clean vase. Use sharp, clean scissors or shears to trim the stems, and remove any leaves that would sit under the water. Submerged leaves can encourage bacteria to grow.

Look at the water regularly, especially during the working week, and replace it if it turns cloudy. When changing it, rinse the vase and trim the stems again. Set the flowers away from direct sunlight, heaters and ripening fruit, since these can shorten the life of some blooms.

It can help to ask one person to check the arrangement during the week. They can remove wilted stems as needed and compost the plant material if the office has a suitable collection or composting system.

Answers to common flower questions

Will the flowers be fine over a weekend?

Usually. Add water before leaving the office, then place the vase somewhere away from heat and direct sunlight.

Do I need to use floral foam?

No. A narrow-necked vase can hold stems in place, and a reusable flower frog is another option.

Do I have to replace the whole arrangement at once?

No. Take out individual faded stems and leave the healthy flowers in clean water.

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