

Yes, you can dry peonies while keeping most of their petals in place, but some shedding is possible. Choose fresh, firm blooms and dry them gently in silica gel for the best chance of holding their shape.

Choose the right flowers

Start with peonies that have just opened and still feel firm. Their petals should look fresh, without brown edges or soft, damaged patches. A flower that is already shedding petals is unlikely to hold together well during drying.

Cut the stems after any dew has dried. If the flowers have been in a vase, take them out while they still look fresh rather than waiting until they begin to fade. Remove the leaves so they do not crowd the flowers in the drying container.

Peonies are large, full flowers, and their petals overlap tightly. That makes them slower to dry than many smaller blooms. Silica gel helps by drawing moisture from around the petals while supporting their shape.

Dry peonies in silica gel

Use a container with an airtight lid that is deep enough to hold the flower without pressing it against the top. Silica gel for drying flowers is a granular drying material, not the small packets found in packaging.

1. Trim the stem so the bloom fits comfortably in the container. Leave enough stem to handle the flower without gripping its petals.
2. Pour a layer of silica gel into the bottom of the container. Set the peony upright on the granules.
3. Slowly spoon more gel around the flower, letting it fall between the petals. Support the bloom as you work and avoid crushing or bending the petals.

4. Cover the flower completely, close the lid and leave it undisturbed. Follow the drying time on the silica gel package, since bloom size and product instructions vary.
5. Check gently. When the petals feel dry and crisp, lift out the flower and tip it carefully to let the loose granules fall away. Use a soft brush to remove any remaining grains.

Keep the drying material away from food, children and pets, and follow the safety directions on its package.

Handle and store dried blooms

Dried peonies are delicate even if every petal stays attached. Hold each flower by its stem and avoid touching the head. Arrange it where it will not be knocked or brushed against.

Keep dried flowers indoors, away from direct sunlight and damp places. Sunlight can fade their color, while moisture can soften the petals. If you need to store them, place them in a dry box with enough room that the blooms do not touch one another.

Common questions

Can I hang peonies upside down to dry?

Yes, but hanging gives the petals less support than silica gel. The flowers may shrink, change shape or shed petals as they dry.

Can I stop every petal from falling?

There is no guarantee. Starting with a firm bloom, supporting its petals during drying and handling it gently afterward can reduce shedding.

A good companion read: florist SEO tips