



CLIENT GUIDE

General Floral Care Guide

A step-by-step guide for receiving, hydrating, conditioning, preparing, arranging, storing, and transporting flowers for DIY projects.

Keep this nearby from delivery through event day.

This guide is designed for general DIY floral projects. Always follow any custom instructions included with your B&B Blooms order, because specialty stems, seasonal substitutions, weather, and installation plans may require different handling.

B&B Blooms Weddings & Events

Serving Nevada + Texas | bloomsbybren@gmail.com

QUICK REFERENCE

Start Here

Read this page first when your flowers arrive. The full guide that follows gives more detail for each step.

The golden rule

Flowers last longest when they are kept clean, cool, hydrated, and handled gently. Most problems come from warm rooms, dirty buckets, leaves sitting in water, dull tools, crowded stems, or waiting too long to hydrate after delivery.

Step	Action	Why it matters
01	Open immediately	Bring boxes or buckets indoors and open them right away. Do not leave flowers in a vehicle, garage, direct sun, or warm entryway.
02	Prepare clean water	Use clean buckets or vases with fresh water and the provided flower food mixed according to packet directions.
03	Inspect and sort	Check the packing list, group stems by type or recipe, and keep labels until you are done organizing.
04	Remove low foliage	Strip any leaves that would sit below the water line. Leaves in water encourage bacteria and shorten vase life.
05	Fresh cut and hydrate	Recut stems with sharp floral snips, then place immediately into prepared water. Let flowers hydrate before arranging.
06	Store cool and protected	Hold flowers in a cool, clean, shaded room away from fruit, direct sun, candles, pets, drafts, and heaters.

What this guide covers

- Before your order arrives
- The first hour after delivery or pickup
- Hydration, conditioning, and storage
- Tools, workspace setup, and clean mechanics
- General design principles for DIY florals
- Bouquets, centerpieces, bud vases, wearables, and installations
- Event-week timing
- Transport and venue setup
- Troubleshooting common flower issues
- Safety, food-contact, and pet notes
- Final checklist and emergency kit
- Professional tips that apply across most DIY projects

01

Before Your Flowers Arrive

A little preparation before delivery makes the entire DIY floral process calmer, cleaner, and more successful.

Set up your floral work zone

Choose a cool, shaded, clean space with access to water, flat tables, trash bags, and enough room to sort flowers by type. A dining room, laundry room, clean garage with air conditioning, or spare room can work well. Avoid kitchens during food prep, sunny patios, hot garages, and rooms with strong fans blowing directly on the flowers.

Ideal room feel

Cool, shaded, dry, and clean. Comfortable air conditioning is better than a hot room. Avoid direct sunlight and heater vents.

Surface protection

Use washable tablecloths, contractor paper, towels, or plastic liners. Floral prep creates leaves, petals, pollen, and water spills.

Water access

Place flowers near a sink or hose, but do not store them in a bathroom with humidity, perfumes, hairspray, or hot showers.

Keep it separate

Keep flowers away from pets, small children, food prep, produce, smoke, candles, and cleaning sprays.

DIY floral supply checklist

- ☐ Clean buckets or tall containers - more than you think you need, so stems are not crowded.
- ☐ Sharp floral snips or bypass pruners - dull scissors crush stems and slow hydration.
- ☐ Flower food packets supplied with the order - mix exactly as directed.
- ☐ Measuring cup or pitcher for consistent water levels and flower food ratios.
- ☐ Trash bags, compost bags, towels, paper towels, and a small broom.
- ☐ Painter tape, waterproof floral tape, or clear tape for vase grids.
- ☐ Chicken wire, floral frogs, floral foam, zip ties, waterproof tape, or mechanics included in your project plan.
- ☐ Ribbon, pins, boutonniere magnets/pins, wire, floral tape, and labels if making wearables.
- ☐ Permanent marker, sticky notes, or tags to label bouquets, tables, and boxes.
- ☐ Transport boxes, crates, towels, packing paper, and nonslip mats for event day.

Professional tip

Prep twice as many clean buckets as you think you need. Overcrowded flowers bruise, bend, and hydrate unevenly. If in doubt, split bunches into more buckets with less pressure on each stem.

02

Upon Receiving Your Order

The first hour matters. Open, inspect, hydrate, and cool the flowers as soon as possible.

01

Bring flowers inside immediately

Move all boxes, buckets, or wrapped bunches to your prepared floral work zone. Do not leave flowers in a vehicle, garage, porch, driveway, direct sun, or near a heater.

- If flowers arrive in boxes, keep boxes upright until opened.
- If flowers arrive in buckets, avoid tipping and keep water level stable.
- If anything looks damaged from transit, photograph it before heavy handling.

02

Open carefully and remove packing materials

Cut tape and packaging gently. Do not pull flowers out by their heads. Support stems from the lower bunch and lift with both hands.

- Save recipe cards, labels, item tags, and packing slips until the project is complete.
- Expect some outer petals or foliage to look tired. This is normal protection during shipping.
- Do not judge flowers before hydration. Many blooms perk up after several hours in water.

03

Count and sort stems

Check the order against the packing list, then group flowers by variety, color, recipe, or project type.

- Keep focal flowers, secondary flowers, filler, greenery, and texture separated at first.
- Reserve the strongest and prettiest stems for bridal bouquets, ceremony moments, and close-up photos.
- Place delicate stems in their own buckets so they are not crushed by heavy greenery.

04

Hydrate before arranging

Most flowers need a hydration period before design work. Fresh-cut stems should drink first, then be arranged after they have had time to recover from transport.

- A minimum of 4 hours is helpful for many flowers; overnight hydration is often better when timing allows.
- Keep stems upright and cool while hydrating.
- Do not arrange dry, limp, or warm flowers if you can avoid it.

Do not panic if flowers look compact.

Many shipped or freshly transported flowers arrive tight, sleepy, or slightly compressed. Hydration, cool storage, and time usually restore shape. Follow your guide before making any major trimming or design decisions.

03

Hydration + Conditioning

Conditioning is the process of preparing stems so they can drink clean water efficiently. This is the foundation of every successful DIY floral project.

Bucket preparation

Cleanliness is the most important part of hydration. Bacteria in buckets or vase water can block stems, cloud water, cause odor, and shorten the life of the flowers. Start with washed containers and fresh water.

- 1 Wash buckets or vases with soap and warm water. Rinse well so no residue remains.
- 2 Fill containers with fresh water. For most flowers, use enough water to cover the lower stems while keeping leaves out of the water.
- 3 Add B&B Blooms flower food, if provided, using the packet directions. More is not better; incorrect ratios can damage flowers.
- 4 Label buckets by flower type or project. Example: bridal bouquet roses, centerpiece greenery, bud vase filler.
- 5 Avoid household additives unless B&B Blooms specifically instructs you. Random mixes of sugar, bleach, soda, pennies, aspirin, or alcohol can create inconsistent results.

Stem conditioning steps

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Remove leaves below the water line

Strip only the leaves that would sit underwater. Keep attractive upper foliage when it supports the design, but do not allow leaves to decompose in the bucket or vase.

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2

Recut stems with sharp tools

Cut stems cleanly with floral snips or pruners, then place them into prepared water right away. A clean cut helps water uptake; crushed stems struggle to drink.

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3

Give stems breathing room

Do not pack buckets too tightly. Flowers need space for air flow, hydration, and protection from bruising. Heavy stems can crush delicate stems.

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4

Let flowers hydrate upright

Leave flowers in water in a cool, shaded area before arranging. Check water levels often because thirsty flowers and greenery can drink quickly.

Professional tip

Process greenery first, then hardier flowers, then delicate flowers. This keeps fragile blooms out of warm rooms for less time and helps you build arrangements with fresh, hydrated ingredients.

Hydration checkpoints before you design

- ☐ Every stem has been freshly cut and placed into clean prepared water.
- ☐ No foliage is sitting below the water line in buckets or vases.
- ☐ Flowers have had time to hydrate before being arranged.
- ☐ Buckets are not overcrowded, especially with delicate blooms.
- ☐ Water is clear and fresh, not cloudy, smelly, or full of leaves.
- ☐ The design room is cool, shaded, and ready before flowers leave their buckets.

If water turns cloudy

Change the water, clean the container, remove decaying foliage, and recut stems before returning flowers to the bucket.

If blooms look sleepy

Give them time. Many flowers need several hours of hydration before they open, firm up, or show their final shape.

04

Storage + Event-Week Timing

Good storage protects your investment. Flowers should be cool, hydrated, organized, and away from anything that accelerates aging.

Where to store flowers

Storage choice	Guidance
Best	A cool, clean, shaded room with air conditioning, stable temperature, clean buckets, and no direct sun.
Avoid	Hot garages, cars, patios, windows, bathrooms with hot showers, heater vents, fireplaces, kitchens during cooking, and direct fan airflow.
Use caution	Household refrigerators can be too cold, too dry, crowded, or full of produce. If using one, it must be clean, produce-free, and not freezing. Tropical flowers may dislike cold storage.
Never	Freezers, ice contact, strong drafts, fruit bowls, candles, direct sunlight, smoke, or sealed plastic bags over wet flowers.

General DIY event-week timeline

Timing	What to do
5-7 days before	Confirm your workspace, buckets, tools, transport boxes, helpers, and venue access times. Review recipes and assign tasks.
2-3 days before	Receive or pick up flowers when possible. Open, inspect, sort, condition, hydrate, and store cool.
1-2 days before	Build hardier centerpieces, bud vases, and some greenery-heavy pieces. Keep designs hydrated and cool.
1 day before	Create bouquets when flowers are hydrated and open enough. Label everything by person, table, or location.
Event morning	Finish delicate wearables, top off water, wipe vessels, pack tools, and move flowers carefully in air-conditioned transport.
At venue	Place flowers away from direct heat until ceremony/reception setup. Add water, touch up blooms, hide mechanics, and photograph placement.

Build backwards from the event start time.

For DIY projects, the goal is not to finish as early as possible. The goal is to finish with enough time for calm transport and setup while keeping flowers hydrated, cool, and protected.

05

Sorting, Stem Counts + Recipe Prep

Before making arrangements, organize ingredients like a floral production line. This saves time and keeps designs consistent.

Understand the ingredient roles

Ingredient	Purpose
Focal flowers	Large, eye-catching blooms such as roses, garden roses, peonies in season, hydrangea, ranunculus, dahlias, or statement blooms. Use these first in priority pieces.
Secondary flowers	Medium blooms that support the focal flowers and fill the design without taking over.
Line flowers	Stems that create height, movement, or direction. Examples may include stock, snapdragon, larkspur, branches, or tall greenery.
Filler flowers	Smaller blooms or airy ingredients that soften gaps and add detail. Use carefully so designs do not look cluttered.
Greenery	Leaves, vines, branches, or foliage that create shape, volume, and structure. Greenery often sets the silhouette first.
Texture stems	Pods, berries, grasses, wispy stems, or unique seasonal ingredients that add interest and keep designs modern.

Batch-prep method

- 1 Review the recipe or inspiration board before cutting anything short.
- 2 Set aside the best flowers for the most photographed pieces first: bridal bouquet, ceremony focal areas, sweetheart table, welcome display, and cake table.
- 3 Create piles or buckets for each project: bridal bouquet, bridesmaids, centerpieces, bud vases, ceremony, wearables, extras.
- 4 Make one sample arrangement first. Use it as your visual standard before creating multiples.
- 5 When making many similar pieces, prep all vessels first, add mechanics to all vessels, green all vessels, then add flowers in rounds. This creates consistency.
- 6 Reserve a small bucket of extras for last-minute repairs, venue touchups, and unexpected gaps.

Priority stem rule

Use your most premium or most open blooms where they will be photographed most.

Do not overstrip

Remove leaves below water, but keep beautiful upper foliage if it supports shape and feels intentional.

Prototype first

Make one finished design before batch production. Adjust stem counts before repeating.

Label everything

Every bouquet, box, vase, and installation bundle should have a clear destination label.

06

Arrangement Basics

These design principles apply to most DIY floral pieces, from bud vases to centerpieces and statement arrangements.

General arrangement method

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Start with clean mechanics

Use a clean vase, taped grid, chicken wire, floral frog, or foam only if included in your project plan. Mechanics should support stems without being visible.

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2

Create the outline

Begin with greenery or line stems to set the width, height, and direction. Keep movement natural, not perfectly symmetrical unless that is the intended style.

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3

Place focal flowers

Add large blooms at varied heights and depths. Avoid lining all focal flowers around the outside edge like a ring.

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4

Add secondary flowers

Use medium blooms to connect focal flowers and fill shape. Rotate the vessel often so every angle looks intentional.

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5

Add filler and texture

Place smaller details last. Use them to soften gaps, not to hide every bit of negative space.

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6

Finish cleanly

Check the water line, remove low leaves, wipe the vessel, hide mechanics, turn the design 360 degrees, and photograph it for consistency.

Modern floral design tips

- Use negative space. Not every gap needs to be filled.
- Vary flower heights so the design feels dimensional.
- Cluster some flowers in small groups for an editorial look.
- Let a few stems have movement instead of forcing a perfect dome.
- Keep color placement balanced but not overly patterned.
- Hide mechanics with foliage, but do not bury blooms too deeply.
- Use odd numbers when you are unsure: 3, 5, or 7 focal placements often feel natural.
- Design for the camera angle and the guest angle.
- Step back often. Close-up arranging can make designs too tight.
- Edit at the end. Removing one stem can make the whole piece feel more expensive.

Fast design formulas

Project	Simple formula
Bud vase	1 statement stem, 1 supporting flower, and 1 movement or greenery stem. Keep it loose and uncluttered.
Low centerpiece	Greenery outline, 3-5 focal blooms, secondary flowers, then light texture. Keep the center slightly lower than the edges for depth.
Hand-tied bouquet	Start with a focal bloom, rotate as you add stems, keep stems angled in one direction, then secure without crushing.
Ceremony piece	Build greenery shape first, place focal flowers where cameras will see them, then add texture at the edges for movement.

The editorial edit

When a design feels too busy, remove the weakest stem, lower one focal flower, and create one clean line of movement. Modern floral design often looks more elevated when it is edited rather than overfilled.

07

Mechanics + Vessel Preparation

Good mechanics keep arrangements stable, hydrated, transportable, and polished. Choose the simplest mechanic that supports the design.

Mechanic	Best use and tip
Tape grid	Best for vases and compotes. Create a clean grid across the opening, then tape around the rim. Keep tape dry when applying so it sticks.
Chicken wire	Best for garden-style vessels and reusable mechanics. Fold into a loose pillow, secure inside the vessel, and make sure stems can still reach water.
Floral frog	Best for low, sculptural arrangements. Secure it in the vessel and place stronger stems first.
Floral foam	Use only when included or recommended. Soak naturally; do not force it underwater. Once a stem hole is made, avoid pulling stems in and out repeatedly.
Water tubes	Helpful for installations, cake flowers, or delicate flowers that cannot sit in a water source. Keep tubes filled and capped securely.
Zip ties/wire	Useful for arches and installations. Cover or hide mechanics after securing. Never damage venue surfaces.

Vessel prep checklist

- ☐ Wash every vase, compote, bud vase, and bucket before use.
- ☐ Check that vessels are stable and do not tip when filled.
- ☐ Test water level before inserting flowers.
- ☐ Apply tape grids only to clean, dry rims.
- ☐ Keep stems long until you are sure of the final height.
- ☐ Keep a towel under the vessel while designing to avoid slippery surfaces.
- ☐ Label finished pieces with table number, location, or recipient name.

Professional tip

Mechanics should disappear. If tape, wire, tubes, or foam are visible from guest eye level, add a few leaves, reposition stems, or edit the angle before the arrangement goes out.

08

Bouquet Preparation

Bouquets are handled, photographed, transported, and held close to clothing, so they need extra attention.

General bouquet process

- 1 Choose the best hydrated stems first. Prioritize bloom shape, color, and stem strength.
- 2 Remove low foliage and thorns that will sit below the hand-tie point. Leave attractive upper foliage if it adds shape.
- 3 Build in your hand using a gentle spiral or angled stem placement. Keep rotating the bouquet as you add stems.
- 4 Place focal flowers at slightly different heights, then support with secondary blooms, greenery, and texture.
- 5 Look in a mirror or photograph the bouquet to check the front-facing shape.
- 6 Secure with waterproof floral tape, bind wire, or twine at the hand-tie point. Do not crush stems.
- 7 Trim stems evenly after the bouquet is secured, then place in clean water until ribbon wrapping or delivery.
- 8 Wrap ribbon close to event time so it stays clean and dry. Keep ribbon above the water line.

Bridal bouquet

Use the premium stems, most intentional color placement, and the cleanest ribbon finish. This piece gets the most photos.

Bridesmaid bouquets

Make the first one as a model. Batch the rest to match scale, shape, and color balance.

Toss bouquet

Use sturdy stems and leftover supporting blooms. Keep it lighter and easier to throw.

Holding tip

Hold the bouquet low at the belly button, angled slightly forward. This photographs better than holding it high.

Bouquet storage

Store bouquets upright in clean water in a cool area. Make sure ribbon, tags, or decorative wraps are not submerged. If transporting in jars, use towels or cardboard dividers so the bouquets do not tip or rub against each other.

Avoid over-handling.

The more a bouquet is picked up, set down, turned, and squeezed, the more petals and stems bruise. Assign one person to move bouquets and keep them in water until photos or ceremony timing.

09

Centerpieces, Bud Vases + Table Flowers

Table flowers should look beautiful from guest height, stay hydrated, and not block conversation unless intentionally designed as a tall statement.

Centerpiece preparation

- 1 Confirm table shape, table count, linen color, candles, table numbers, chargers, and available space before designing.
- 2 Clean vessels and add mechanics before opening all flowers. This keeps the production line efficient.
- 3 Design one sample centerpiece first. Place it on a table and check height from a seated position.
- 4 Keep low centerpieces low enough for conversation or intentionally tall enough to clear sight lines.
- 5 Use greenery and line stems to set shape before adding focal flowers.
- 6 Place focal flowers toward guest-facing sides, not only on the top.
- 7 Top off water after arranging and again before transport.
- 8 Keep candles away from petals, leaves, hanging greenery, and dry materials.

Bud vase production tips

- Use clean water in every bud vase.
- Trim stems shorter than you think; bud vases look best when stems are supported.
- Use 1-5 stems per vase depending on style and vessel opening.
- Vary heights across a grouping for a more editorial table look.
- Do not overcrowd tiny vases; one perfect bloom can be enough.
- Batch by color or flower type before placing on tables.
- Use a tray or box to transport groups safely.
- Label vases by table if each table has a recipe.
- Keep backup stems for broken or wilted bud vase flowers.
- Fill water at the venue if transport may spill.

Professional tip

For modern tables, repeat a color story rather than making every vessel identical. Consistency can come from palette, movement, and proportion instead of exact matching.

10

Wearables, Cake Flowers + Specialty Pieces

Small floral pieces require delicate handling and should usually be made closer to the event.

Boutonnieres and corsages

Wearables are small but time-sensitive. Use sturdy, hydrated blooms and avoid flowers that bruise easily. Make them as late as your timeline allows, then store them cool and labeled.

Piece	General guidance
Boutonnieres	Use a small focal bloom, texture, and a little greenery. Wire or tape if needed. Keep scale proportional to the jacket lapel. Label by wearer.
Corsages	Use sturdy blooms and comfortable mechanics. Make sure bracelets, magnets, or pins are secure. Keep colors consistent with the wedding party.
Flower crowns	Use hardy small blooms and greenery. Mist lightly only if appropriate for the ingredients. Store cool in a labeled box.
Pocket squares	Use flat, low-profile ingredients and secure mechanics. Avoid bulky stems that make the pocket sag.

Cake flowers and food safety

- Coordinate with the baker before placing any fresh flowers on or near cake.
- Do not push raw stems directly into cake unless the baker approves a food-safe method.
- Use wrapped stems, floral picks, water tubes, parchment, acetate, or other barriers as directed.
- Keep flowers away from open flame, warm lights, and direct sun at dessert displays.
- Some flowers and greenery are not food-safe. When unsure, keep flowers decorative and separated from edible surfaces.

Flat-lay and detail flowers

Save a small set of loose stems, ribbon, and petals for photographer detail shots. Choose clean blooms with strong shape and keep them in a labeled cup of water until the photographer is ready.

Professional tip

Make wearables in a calm, clean area with labels already written. Small pieces get misplaced easily. Label by person, role, and side if needed.

11

Ceremony Pieces + Installations

Arches, aisle flowers, entry displays, and statement pieces require structure, hydration strategy, and venue awareness.

Before building onsite

- ☐ Confirm venue arrival time, setup window, breakdown rules, and where floral waste can go.
- ☐ Confirm whether the venue allows hooks, tape, nails, ladders, zip ties, water sources, or weighted stands.
- ☐ Check sun direction, wind exposure, heat, and distance from parking to setup area.
- ☐ Assign helpers before arrival and give each person a specific task.
- ☐ Bring an emergency kit with snips, zip ties, tape, wire, water tubes, towels, and extra stems.

Installation basics

- 1 Build stable structure first. Flowers should decorate a secure base, not create the base.
- 2 Add greenery or branch material to create shape and hide mechanics.
- 3 Add focal flowers where cameras and guests will see them most.
- 4 Use water sources for delicate or thirsty stems whenever possible.
- 5 Keep flowers shaded and hydrated until the last practical moment.
- 6 Check from the aisle, guest seats, photographer angle, and close-up angle.
- 7 Do not attach anything to venue property unless the venue has approved the method.

Outdoor heat

Use hardy flowers and add delicate blooms closer to ceremony time.

Wind

Weight the base, secure mechanics, and avoid long unsupported stems.

Repurposing

Design ceremony pieces so they can move to reception only if safe, stable, and timed properly.

Team safety

Use proper ladders, keep walkways clear, and never rush large installs.

B&B Blooms onsite installations

For full-service event floral and onsite installations, B&B Blooms can handle the design, setup, and installation plan. DIY clients should only attempt installations that are realistic for the venue, weather, timeline, and helper team.

Helpful Notes for Common Flower Types

Different flowers behave differently. These general notes help you respond without overcorrecting. Follow any specific instructions from B&B Blooms first.

Flower or stem type	General handling tip
Roses	Outer guard petals may look bruised or rough. Remove only the unattractive outer petals after hydration. Keep stems recut and water clean.
Garden roses	Handle gently and support heavy heads. They can open beautifully with time, but bruise if overhandled.
Hydrangea	Very thirsty. Keep in deep water, avoid heat, and recut if wilting. Use in well-hydrated designs with a strong water source.
Ranunculus	Delicate stems and beautiful movement. Avoid crowding and support stems in bouquets or vases.
Tulips	Continue to grow and bend after arranging. Keep cool and expect movement; use this for a modern look.
Dahlias	Can be delicate and temperature-sensitive. Use hydrated stems, avoid heat, and handle bloom faces gently.
Stock/snapdragon/line flowers	Great for height and structure. Remove low foliage and give enough bucket space to prevent bending.
Greenery	Often drinks quickly and sheds leaves. Process early, remove low foliage, and keep fresh water available.
Bleeding or sappy stems	Some stems may need special conditioning or separate hydration. Ask B&B Blooms if a stem is sticky, milky, or unfamiliar.
Tropical flowers	May dislike cold storage. Keep away from chill unless instructed.

Specialty flower note

Do not apply one rescue trick to every flower. Some stems like cooler storage, some dislike cold, some need deep water, and some need specialty conditioning. When in doubt, keep clean water, recut stems, store cool but not freezing, and contact B&B Blooms.

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Troubleshooting Guide

Use this page when something looks off. Most issues are solved with clean water, a fresh cut, cooler conditions, and time.

Issue	What to try
Flowers look tired on arrival	Unpack, recut, remove low foliage, place in clean flower-food water, and allow several hours to hydrate before judging.
Cloudy or smelly water	Remove stems, wash container, refill with fresh water and flower food, recut stems, and remove any decaying leaves.
Stems are drooping	Check that stems are in water, recut cleanly, remove blocked or damaged lower stem, and move to a cool shaded room.
Blooms are too closed	Move to a slightly warmer room with indirect light. Do not force open delicate petals. Monitor often.
Blooms are too open	Move to the coolest safe location, avoid handling, and use those blooms in priority pieces sooner.
Petals are bruised	Remove only the outer damaged petals. Do not peel too far into the bloom or it may lose shape.
Broken stem	Cut it shorter and use it in a bud vase, small arrangement, boutonniere, cake flower, or detail flat lay.
Leaves are wilting	Remove unattractive leaves below the design line. Check water, temperature, and crowding.
Arrangement looks too round	Add movement with line stems or greenery, vary heights, and create a few intentional gaps.
Arrangement looks messy	Remove one or two distracting stems, clean the rim, hide mechanics, and rotate the vessel while editing.

When to contact B&B Blooms

If an issue affects a major piece, a large number of stems, or anything that looks like shipping or temperature damage, take photos and email bloomsbybren@gmail.com as soon as possible. Include your name, event date, order details, and photos in natural light.

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Transport + Venue Setup

Transport is where many DIY floral projects get damaged. Pack carefully, keep flowers cool, and give yourself more time than you think you need.

Packing flowers for transport

- ☐ Use an air-conditioned vehicle. Cool the vehicle before loading flowers.
- ☐ Keep flowers upright in crates, boxes, or bins with towels for support.
- ☐ Do not place flowers in a trunk, truck bed, or direct sunlight.
- ☐ Avoid stacking arrangements unless they are designed and protected for stacking.
- ☐ Secure vases with cardboard dividers, towels, nonslip mats, or cup holders for small vases.
- ☐ Transport bouquets upright in water when possible. Remove from water right before photos or ceremony use.
- ☐ Pack an emergency kit where it is easy to reach, not buried under flowers.
- ☐ Drive gently. Fast turns, hard stops, and speed bumps can damage designs.

Venue setup flow

- 1 Unload flowers into shade or a cool indoor holding area first.
- 2 Check every piece against the setup list before placing items around the venue.
- 3 Place ceremony and photo-priority flowers first.
- 4 Top off water in centerpieces, bud vases, and large arrangements.
- 5 Wipe vessels and remove fallen leaves or petals from tables.
- 6 Check candle distance and fire safety before leaving tables complete.
- 7 Walk the entire space once as a guest and once as a photographer.
- 8 Take quick reference photos after setup so missing pieces are easy to spot.

Professional tip

Assign a floral captain who is not the bride, groom, or guest of honor. That person should know where every piece goes, who gets each bouquet, and where the emergency kit is located.

15

Do, Do Not + Safety Notes

These guidelines protect the flowers, the venue, the cake, the clothing, and the people handling the designs.

Do	Do not
Use clean buckets, clean tools, fresh water, and supplied flower food.	Do not use dirty containers, rusty tools, or random household additives unless instructed.
Keep flowers cool, shaded, hydrated, and away from fruit.	Do not leave flowers in direct sun, a hot car, near heaters, or next to ripening fruit.
Fresh cut stems before hydration and again if they have been out of water.	Do not crush stems with dull scissors or leave cut stems sitting dry.
Remove leaves below water line.	Do not allow foliage to rot underwater.
Use venue-approved installation methods.	Do not tape, nail, wire, or zip-tie to venue property without permission.
Coordinate with the baker for cake flowers.	Do not insert unknown fresh stems directly into cake.
Keep flowers away from pets and children when unattended.	Do not assume every flower or greenery variety is pet-safe or food-safe.
Use stable ladders and helpers for installations.	Do not climb, install, or lift heavy floral pieces alone when unsafe.

Safety reminders

- Some flowers, foliage, berries, and plant saps can irritate skin or be toxic to pets or children. Keep materials away from mouths, food, and curious animals.
- Lilies are especially dangerous to cats. If pets are present, ask about pet-safe choices and keep flowers out of reach.
- Wear gloves if you have sensitive skin or are handling thorny, sappy, or unfamiliar stems.
- Keep snips, wire, pins, knives, and floral tools away from children.
- Clean spills quickly. Water, petals, and leaves can become slipping hazards.
- Do not place flowers too close to candles, heaters, hot lights, or open flame.

General guide disclaimer

This guide is for general floral care and DIY preparation. It does not replace custom instructions for a specific flower variety, event design, venue requirement, food-safety plan, or installation plan.

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Final DIY Checklist

Use this page before leaving for the venue or before guests arrive.

Flower readiness

- ☐ All flowers were unpacked, inspected, hydrated, and conditioned.
- ☐ All buckets and vessels are clean and filled with fresh water as needed.
- ☐ No leaves are sitting below water lines.
- ☐ Bouquets are labeled and stored upright in water.
- ☐ Centerpieces and bud vases are labeled by table or location.
- ☐ Wearables are labeled by person and stored cool.
- ☐ Reserved extra stems are packed for touchups.
- ☐ Wilted, bruised, or broken stems have been removed or repurposed.

Transport and setup

- ☐ Vehicle is cooled before loading flowers.
- ☐ Flowers are upright, supported, and protected from sun.
- ☐ Emergency kit is packed and easy to access.
- ☐ Setup list, floor plan, and table counts are printed or saved offline.
- ☐ Venue access time and contact person are confirmed.
- ☐ Helpers know their roles and arrival times.
- ☐ Cake flower plan is confirmed with the baker.
- ☐ Cleanup bags and towels are packed.

Emergency kit

Kit item	Kit item	Kit item
Floral snips or pruners	Waterproof tape	Clear tape
Floral tape	Wire	Zip ties
Ribbon and pins	Extra water tubes	Small towel
Paper towels	Trash bags	Extra stems
Flower food packet	Spray bottle if appropriate	Lint roller
Scissors	Marker and labels	Copy of setup list
Phone charger		

After the event

- Refresh arrangements with clean water if you plan to keep them after the celebration.
- Remove broken stems, spent blooms, and any foliage that has fallen into water.
- Gift flowers in clean vessels or wrap stems with a temporary water source for travel.
- Compost clean green waste when possible and dispose of wire, tape, zip ties, foam, and ribbon separately.
- Return or save reusable vessels and mechanics according to your rental or project plan.

Need help?

Email B&B Blooms at bloomsbybren@gmail.com. Include your name, event date, location, and photos if you have a specific flower care question.



Beautiful flowers begin with thoughtful care.

Thank you for trusting B&B Blooms with your floral experience. We are honored to help you create flowers that feel personal, polished, and beautifully prepared.

Contact	Service Areas	Services
bloomsbybren@gmail.com	Nevada + Texas	Wedding florals, event floral design, guided DIY flowers, custom packages, and onsite floral installations

B&B BLOOMS WEDDINGS & EVENTS

General Floral Care Guide | Prepared for B&B Blooms clients