

simple steps for flower arranging

WITH GABRIELA SALAZAR

MATERIALS:

vessel
water
chicken wire
roll of floral tape
pair of pruning shears
package of twine or string
package of chlorine drops
florals and foliage of your choice

TIP: *Adding two drops of chlorine to your arrangement's water can help to keep bacteria away.*

ESTABLISHING THE SHAPE

1. The first layer in any arrangement determines the shape. Avoid tight groupings and uniformly vertical placements, which give an artificial feel to your finished arrangement. Instead, try to imagine the shapes and lines you see plants display in their natural state, such as the way branches of a tree are open and wide, allowing for natural movement. This layer will also allow you to obscure any mechanics of your arrangement that are keeping it in place, such as chicken wire or floral tape.

TIP: *Any verdant foliage with thin stems are ideal for this layer. Think leafy ferns of different sizes and shapes for variety.*

BUILDING A BASE LAYER

2. This layer is all about bringing color to your arrangement. Think of it like selecting paint for your canvas, and how the colors you choose will create a composition that grows from there. For this layer, you want to look for flowers that are less fragile—ideally smaller flowers with a lot of texture to them, as well as flowers that vary slightly in tone from bloom to bloom. This will give your final arrangement depth and a more organic appearance.

TIP: *Yarrow, dianthus, or wax flowers are good options for this layer, but any smaller and less delicate flowers with multiple blooms per stem will give you a wide spectrum of color and texture.*

LAYERING THE STATEMENT FLOWERS

3. The third layer is adding your main flowers or focal flowers. For this step, we want to use big, eye-catching blooms. These focal flowers will mainly be placed to the sides, allowing you to showcase them without them stealing all of the attention. For maximum effect, place these in varying heights facing different directions.

TIP: *Florals that work well for this layer include dahlias, roses, or any large blooms with a sturdier stem that catch your eye and can be the star of the show.*

CREATING MOVEMENT

4. This layer is all about adding the delicate bits and curvy stems that make your arrangement look soft and playful, rather than stiff and artificial. Creating movement brings nuance and complexity to your overall shape. Think of this step as adding the finishing touches to your arrangement.

TIP: *Florals that work well for this layer include poppies, cosmos, or any delicate, single-bloom flowers with a naturally curving and flexible stem.*