

Anniversary roses last longer when you put them in a clean vase, trim their stems, and give them fresh water regularly. Keep them cool and away from direct sunlight, heat, and ripening fruit to help slow wilting.

Start with a clean vase

A vase can look clean and still hold residue from an earlier bouquet. Wash it with soap and water, rinse it thoroughly, and fill it with fresh water before arranging the roses. A clean start helps limit the bacteria that can shorten the life of cut flowers.

If the bouquet came with flower food, add it according to the packet directions. The mixture is made for cut flowers, and using the suggested amount matters. Avoid guessing at a homemade substitute if you do not have a packet. Fresh water and a clean vase are useful on their own.

Choose a vase that supports the stems without crowding them. Roses need enough room for water to reach each stem, and a little space makes it easier to remove leaves that fall below the waterline.

Prepare the stems

A fresh cut opens the ends of the stems so they can take up water. Take a few minutes to prepare each rose before placing it in the vase.

1. Remove any wrapping around the stems and take off leaves that would sit below the waterline.
2. Use clean, sharp scissors or pruning shears to cut a small piece from the bottom of each stem at an angle.
3. Place the roses in the prepared water promptly, arranging them without crushing the stems.
4. Check the water daily and top it up as needed. Replace it and rinse the vase if the water becomes cloudy.

Trim the stems again when you change the water. Remove individual petals or leaves as they fade, but leave healthy foliage in place above the waterline. It is part of the shape of the bouquet.

Choose a gentle place for the bouquet

Set the vase somewhere cool, out of direct sun and away from radiators, heating vents, and other sources of heat. A bright room can still work if the flowers are not sitting in a hot window.

Keep roses away from bowls of ripening fruit. Some fruit releases ethylene gas, which can speed the aging of flowers. Also look for a stable surface where the vase will not be knocked over as people pass.

These small adjustments leave the bouquet easy to enjoy without making it the center of a daily chore. Check the water as you pass, and move the vase if a sunny patch reaches it later in the day.

Questions about caring for roses

How often should I change the water?

Check it every day and replace it if it looks cloudy. A regular water change also gives you a chance to rinse the vase and trim the stems again.

Can a drooping rose recover?

Sometimes. Give the stem a fresh cut and put it in clean water, then leave it in a cool place. A badly wilted rose may not stand upright again.

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