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How to Care for Your Indoor Ivy

Beautiful, lush, healthy ivy makes a spectacular houseplant. Unlike some especially carefree houseplants, though, ivies like just a little bit of special attention. Follow these easy steps in caring for your ivy, and your plant will thank you with abundant growth.

- ◇ Rule of Thumb (or should we say Rule of Finger?): The best way to determine when your ivy needs water is to simply stick your finger into the soil. If the first inch or so feels dry, it's time to water. When watering your ivy, place the plant in the sink and use the spray attachment on the entire plant to keep it free of pests. Ivies like to be misted at least once a week. The misting helps keep the Ivy hydrated. Water well and let the excess water drain into the sink. Never leave ivy sitting in water.
- ◇ To insure that you'll never have problems with spidermites, begin a monthly ritual of spraying ivy with Horticultural Oil or any insecticide that lists spidermites on the label. Be sure to spray the undersides of leaves as thoroughly as you can.
- ◇ Feed your ivy with a weak solution of any balanced liquid houseplant fertilizer. If you bring your ivy outdoors in spring, your plant should be acclimated slowly to cooler temperatures (40° and up). The light needs to be filtered.

