

ALOE VERA *Aloe barbadensis*

An Aloe Vera is planted in a cream-glazed ceramic pot. Aloes are characterized by rosettes of large, fleshy leaves that store water for long periods. The gel inside the plant's leaves can be used to treat burns or skin wounds. Place in bright indirect light or a space that receives a few hours of morning sun. Check the soil for dampness once a week. If dry, add about a half cup of water, keeping in mind that any excess will build up in the bottom and should be avoided. Water should be applied to soil, not to the plant itself.

GEOGRAPHIC ORIGIN:

Tropical Africa

GREAT FOR: Bright light

FEATURES:

Low Maintenance; Medicinal Uses

GROWTH RATE: Moderate



LIGHT

As with most succulents, Aloes grow best in full sun or partial shade. In hot summers, more shade may be necessary.



LEVEL OF CARE

Easy! Just place in bright sunlight and don't overwater.



FERTILIZER

Feed once a year in the spring with a mild cactus fertilizer.



PRUNING & PROPAGATION

Prune sections of leaves as needed and the exposed ends will heal in time. To propagate, remove pups from parent plant and repot.



WATER

Aloes are very drought-tolerant and require the soil to mostly dry out between waterings. However, if plants go too long without water their leaves will shrivel and pucker.



TEMPERATURE

Aloes tend to grow best in temperatures between 55 and 80F. Grown outdoors, Aloes are hardy in USDA zones 10-11.



SOIL

Use a cactus/palm potting mix. Repot in a wider pot instead of a deeper one, as Aloes have shallow root systems that spread along the soil surface.



PET FRIENDLY?

Sorry! While some aloe varieties have medicinal and culinary uses for humans, they are mildly toxic if consumed by pets.

