

Stand freshly cut daffodils in a separate container of water for at least 12 hours before mixing them with other flowers. This gives their stems time to release the sap that can shorten the life of neighboring blooms.

Prepare the daffodils

Choose a clean vase or bucket that can hold the stems upright. Fill it with enough cool, fresh water to cover several inches of each stem. Keep the container away from direct sun and heat while the flowers soak.

Trim the daffodil stems to the length you want for the finished arrangement. Use clean, sharp scissors or floral snips. Cut each stem once, then put it straight into the separate container. The cut ends will release a sticky sap into the water.

Plan the height before you cut. Once the daffodils have soaked, cutting them again exposes fresh stem tissue and releases more sap. If you do need to shorten them later, give them another separate soak before returning them to the mixed vase.

Handle the stems gently. Daffodil sap can irritate skin, so gloves are useful if you are sensitive to it or working with a large bunch. Wash your hands after handling the flowers, especially before touching your face.

Let the stems soak separately

Leave the daffodils in their own water for at least 12 hours. A full day is a practical choice if you have time. Do not add other flowers during this soak. The point is to keep them away from the sap as it leaves the freshly cut stems.

While you wait, prepare the other flowers in a different clean container. Trim their stems and remove any leaves that would sit below the waterline. Keep them in fresh water in a cool spot until you are ready to arrange them.

Discard the daffodil soaking water when the waiting period is over. Rinse the vase or bucket before using it again. Do not pour the used water into the final arrangement, since it contains sap from the stems.

Build and care for the arrangement

Fill a clean vase with fresh water. Transfer the conditioned daffodils without cutting their stems again, then add the other prepared flowers. Arrange them loosely enough that each stem can reach the water. Remove any foliage that falls below the waterline.

Check the water daily and top it up as needed. Change it if it becomes cloudy, using fresh water in a clean vase. Lift the flowers out gently and avoid trimming the daffodil stems during the change. Remove fading blooms as you notice them.

Keep the arrangement in a cool place, out of direct sunlight and away from heat sources. Keep daffodils and their water out of reach of pets and children, since the plant is poisonous if eaten.

A separate soak takes planning, but it lets you mix daffodils with other flowers without putting fresh sap straight into their shared water.

For more detail, see church flowers