

Vacation Watering: Pre-Trip Decision and Observation Sheet

Choose your approach before relying on any unattended watering.

Departure: _____ Return: _____ Room / location: _____

DECISION PATH

1. Check whether the plant actually needs supplemental water during the trip.
2. If yes, choose one simple method per pot or group of similar pots.
3. Set up and observe the system before you leave.

SELECT ONE PRIMARY PLAN

- ☐ Ceramic cone + reservoir: best for 1 to a few medium indoor pots after a trial
- ☐ Wick + reservoir: best for small/medium pots with a stable nearby container
- ☐ Powered drip kit: best for grouped pots when you can test flow and anti-siphon placement
- ☐ Plant sitter / normal watering only: best when a device test fails or pots vary widely

POT AND RESERVOIR INVENTORY

Plant / pot	Drainage	Usual moisture	Method	Reservoir
Pot 1:				
Pot 2:				
Pot 3:				
Pot 4:				
Pot 5:				

If pot needs differ greatly, make separate plans rather than one shared schedule.

VACATION WATERING | PRE-TRIP PLAN

Record what actually happens over at least several observations or cycles.

SETUP CHECKLIST

- ☐ Pots watered normally before starting the trial (or prepared per device instructions).
- ☐ Cones or wicks presoaked and seated firmly in contact with potting mix.
- ☐ Reservoir filled, marked at the starting water line, and placed on a waterproof tray.
- ☐ Tubing, emitters, and water level checked so water cannot siphon continuously.
- ☐ All electrical cords, outlets, and floors kept dry and clear of drip paths.

OBSERVATION LOG - one copy per setup or plant group

Plant(s): _____ Method: _____

Date / time	Reservoir level	Soil / pot observation	Drips, leaks, or leaf changes
Check 1:			
Check 2:			
Check 3:			
Check 4:			
Check 5:			
Check 6:			

ACTION IF THE TRIAL FAILS

Soil too wet or saucer overflowing: lower reservoir / reduce flow / stop device and switch to normal watering or a sitter.

Soil still dry while reservoir stays full: reseal cone or wick, prime tubing, or choose another method.

Any leak onto wood, carpet, or electrical area: discontinue unattended setup before departure.

Final check date: _____ Person checking while away: _____

Notes / action taken: _____

Optional follow-up: After your trip, note which pots stayed balanced so you can reuse the working setup next time.