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COLLECTOR GUIDE

The Peace Lily Guide

Spathiphyllum wallisii

A FIELD GUIDE FOR INDOOR GROWERS

2026 EDITION

How to use this guide

The angle of the leaves. The moisture in the mix. The color of an aging spathe. The weight of the pot. Good care begins by noticing what changed before deciding what to do.

THE ONE-CHANGE RULE

Change one condition. Record what happened. Give the plant time to answer.

Contents

PLANT IDENTITY	
BOTANICAL	*Spathiphyllum wallisii*
FAMILY	Araceae
ORIGIN	Colombia and Venezuela
HABIT	Basal, clump-forming perennial

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HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE

Start with the condition you can observe. Avoid making several changes at once. The printable log at the end is part of the care system, not an afterthought.

Plant profile

Peace lily grows as a basal clump of glossy, prominently veined leaves. Each familiar white bloom is an inflorescence: a pale spathe surrounding a central spadix covered with tiny flowers.

Care at a glance

Even moisture, filtered light, warmth, and drainage. Peace lily communicates quickly, but repeated dramatic wilting is not the goal.

LIGHT

Medium to bright indirect light supports healthy foliage and flowering. Protect the leaves from direct sun.

WATER

Keep the mix evenly moist, letting the surface begin to dry before watering thoroughly. Never leave the pot standing in water.

HUMIDITY

Moderate household humidity can work. Persistently dry air may contribute to brown tips and edges.

WARMTH

Warm, stable indoor temperatures suit it. Protect the plant from cold glass, drafts, and drying heat.

SOIL

Use an organic-rich indoor mix that holds moisture while still draining freely.

UPKEEP

Wipe broad leaves with a damp cloth and remove yellow leaves or spent flower stems at the base.

THE RELIABLE DEFAULT

Water before the root ball dries completely, then let the container drain and empty the saucer.

Light

Window direction is only the beginning. Trees, buildings, season, curtains, and distance all change the light that reaches a leaf.

TOO INTENSE

Pale, bleached, or scorched areas after exposure to strong direct sun.

USEFUL RANGE

Medium to bright filtered daylight. Lower light may sustain foliage, but flowering can slow.

TOO DIM

Very slow new growth, few or no blooms, or a clump leaning strongly toward the window.

ADJUST SLOWLY

Move the plant in stages. Sudden changes can burn or stress established leaves.

> **LEAVES BEFORE FLOWERS**
>
> Healthy foliage matters even when the plant is not blooming. Improve light gradually and avoid trying to force flowers with extra fertilizer.

Placement

Choose filtered daylight away from hot glass and cold drafts. Leave room around the broad leaves so they are not repeatedly brushed or folded.

Watering

The calendar should remind you to inspect the pot, not instruct you to pour.

After watering, lift out the nursery pot and empty any water left in the decorative outer pot.

01

CHECK THE MIX

Feel just below the surface and lift the pot. If the mix is still moist and the pot feels heavy, wait.

02

WATER EVENLY

When the surface begins to dry, wet the mix across the pot. Do not wait for a repeated dramatic wilt.

03

LET IT FINISH

Let the pot drain completely, then empty the saucer or decorative outer pot.

Humidity and temperature

Peace lily prefers warm, moderately humid air and reacts poorly to cold drafts and drying vents.

GOOD RANGE	A daytime range near 68-85°F (20-29°C) is suitable. Keep the plant away from cold windows, air-conditioning drafts, and hot vents.
HUMIDITY	Moderate humidity supports the broad leaves. A humidifier can help in persistently dry rooms, but wetter soil is not a substitute.
WINTER	Shorter days slow growth and water use. Check the mix rather than maintaining the same summer watering interval.

SEPARATE AIR FROM SOIL

Humidity affects the air around the leaf. It does not justify waterlogged soil.

Soil and fertilizer

An organic-rich indoor mix should retain moisture without becoming airless or stagnant.

POTTING MIX

Choose a peat-, coir-, or bark-based indoor mix with good structure. Avoid dense garden soil and containers without drainage.

FERTILIZER

Use a low dose of houseplant fertilizer during active growth and follow its label. Flush the mix periodically; excess salts can burn leaf tips and roots.

Peace lily anatomy

Numbered markers correspond to the definitions at right.

1 LEAF BLADE
The glossy, prominently veined photosynthetic surface.

2 PETIOLE
The leaf stalk connecting the blade to the basal crown.

3 BASAL CROWN
The compact growing point from which leaves and roots arise.

4 SPATHE
The white modified leaf that surrounds the flower-bearing spike.

5 SPADIX
The central spike covered with many tiny flowers.

6 FIBROUS ROOTS
The dense branching root system below the crown.

Leaves and spent blooms

REMOVE DUST GENTLY

Support each leaf and wipe it with a soft damp cloth. Clean both surfaces without bending the petiole.

SKIP LEAF POLISH

Plain water is enough. Oily coatings can collect residue and make pest inspection more difficult.

REMOVE A SPENT BLOOM

When the spathe browns and declines, cut the entire flower stalk near the base with clean scissors.

READ BROWN EDGES

A trim improves appearance only. Review moisture, humidity, fertilizer salts, and direct sun before changing care.

> **WHITE IS TEMPORARY**
>
> A spathe naturally shifts from white toward green and then brown as it ages. That change alone is not a care failure.

Troubleshooting

Check the pattern, the root zone, and the recent change before reaching for a remedy.

WHAT YOU SEE	WHAT TO INSPECT	FIRST RESPONSE
Dramatic wilt	Dry mix, a suddenly hotter location, or roots that can no longer take up water.	Check the mix first. Water thoroughly only if it is dry; inspect roots if it remains wet.
Brown tips or edges	Repeated dryness, low humidity, fertilizer salts, or an overly concentrated feed.	Stabilize moisture and review feeding. Flush accumulated salts if drainage is reliable.
Several yellow leaves	Persistently wet mix, blocked drainage, cold exposure, or root decline.	Pause automatic watering and inspect the root zone before adding fertilizer.
Few or no blooms	Low light, an immature or recently divided plant, or generally slow growth.	Improve indirect light gradually. Do not use extra fertilizer as a shortcut.
Scale or cottony pests	Leaf bases, undersides, and petioles for scale insects or mealybug clusters.	Separate the plant, confirm the pest, and follow a labeled treatment.

DO NOT STACK REMEDIES

Extra water, fertilizer, repotting, homemade pesticide, and a new location applied together can increase stress and erase the evidence. Change one condition at a time unless roots are actively failing.

Repotting

A healthy root mass holds together without forming a solid block; firm crowns and fine pale roots remain visible through the mix.

01
PREPARE

Choose a draining pot one size larger and prepare fresh mix.

02
INSPECT

Look before teasing. Healthy roots are firm and light tan or cream, not soft or foul-smelling.

03
SET

Keep the crown at its original depth and spread only roots that loosen without force.

04
SETTLE

Backfill gently, water once, drain, and return to stable light.

WHEN TO ACT

Repot when roots are severely crowded, the container is distorted, or the mix no longer accepts water normally. Move up one pot size or divide the clump. An oversized container can leave too much wet mix around a modest root system.

Propagation

Peace lilies are propagated by division. Each new section needs its own crown, several leaves, and an established share of roots.

Separate the clump at a natural crown division and preserve as many healthy roots as possible.

01

CHOOSE

Begin with a healthy established clump that has more than one distinct crown.

02

EXPOSE

Remove the plant from its pot and loosen enough mix to see where the crowns meet.

03

SEPARATE

Ease natural sections apart. Use a clean blade only where connected tissue will not release.

04

REPLANT

Set each crown at its former depth, water, drain, and return it to stable indirect light.

Seasonal care

Indoor seasons are shaped by daylight, heating, cooling, and windows. The plant's pace remains the primary signal.

OBSERVE	SPRING	SUMMER	AUTUMN	WINTER
LIGHT	Increase light gradually.	Filter strong sun.	Watch shorter days.	Use the brightest safe place.
WATER	Growth and drying may accelerate.	Check moisture more often.	Intervals may widen.	Confirm dryness first.
FEED	Begin with growth.	Continue at label rate.	Reduce as growth slows.	Pause if inactive.
PROJECTS	Repot or divide if needed.	Watch moisture and leaf edges.	Remove tired stems and inspect pests.	Stabilize warmth.

THE USEFUL SCHEDULE

Schedule observations. Let the observations determine the care.

Pet safety

The ASPCA lists peace lily as toxic to cats and dogs because it contains insoluble calcium oxalate crystals.

PRACTICAL PRECAUTIONS

Place the plant where pets and children cannot chew the leaves or flower structures.

Collect fallen leaves and spent flower parts promptly.

Do not assume the plant is safe because it is not a true lily.

Keep fertilizers, pesticides, and potting materials secured.

WHAT TO DO

Chewing can cause intense oral irritation, burning of the mouth, drooling, vomiting, and difficulty swallowing. Contact a veterinarian or animal poison-control service promptly after a suspected exposure.

ASPCA ANIMAL POISON CONTROL

(888) 426-4435

A consultation fee may apply.

Peace lily is not a true lily in the genus *Lilium*, but it is still unsafe to chew or ingest. Do not induce vomiting unless a veterinary professional directs you to do so.

Observation log: before a change

Use one page for one care decision. Print extra copies of pages 18-19 whenever you need them.

PLANT NAME OR IDENTIFYING NOTE

DATE

LOCATION AND WINDOW DIRECTION

WHAT I OBSERVED

POTTING MIX BEFORE WATERING

☐ Wet ☐ Moist ☐ Dry at surface ☐ Dry deeper ☐ Not checked

ONE ACTION I TOOK

Observation log: follow-up

Return after enough time has passed to notice a meaningful response. Avoid adding a second change too quickly.

FOLLOW-UP DATE

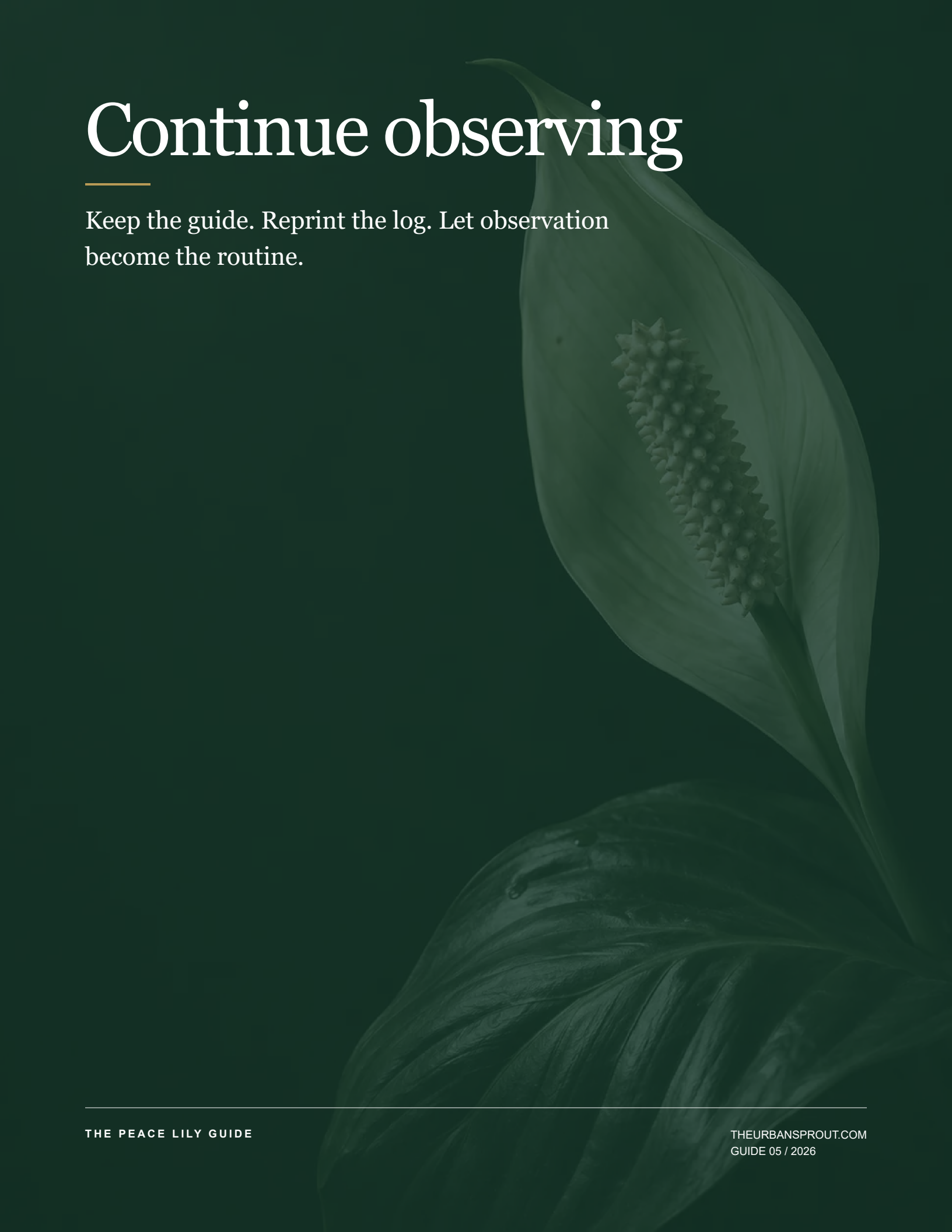
DAYS SINCE THE CHANGE

WHAT CHANGED NEXT

WHAT STAYED THE SAME

MY NEXT OBSERVATION DATE AND WHY

☐ Continue ☐ Reassess ☐ Seek expert help ☐ No further action

Continue observing

Keep the guide. Reprint the log. Let observation become the routine.