

just add ice®

COMMON ORCHID EMERGENCIES

resolved

Accidents happen—even to orchids. Here are seven common orchid emergencies that can happen to even the most experienced orchid owners, and what you can do about them.

EMERGENCY

no.1

Your Pet Ate Your Orchid

First, relax. Phalaenopsis orchids are non-toxic to dogs, cats and horses. Keep your pets from nibbling by sprinkling your orchid's leaves with cinnamon or cayenne pepper.

EMERGENCY

no.2

Your Orchid Got Knocked Over

Clean up any spilled media. If a lot of media has been knocked from the pot or the pot has broken, you will need to repot your orchid.

EMERGENCY

no.3

Your Orchid is Prematurely Dropping Blooms or Buds

Check the orchid's placement, its roots and if it needs more water. A sudden temperature change, dehydration or dead or dying roots can cause premature bloom or bud loss.

EMERGENCY

no.4

Your Orchid Has a Broken Stem

Cut the stem above the break closer to the pot, and put it in a vase of water if it has flowered. Then cut the rest of the stem down to the base of the orchid. This will allow the orchid to put more energy into producing a new stem.

EMERGENCY

no.5

Your Orchid Has a White Fuzzy Substance On It

Move the orchid away from other plants and wipe the cottony substance off with a cotton ball dipped in isopropyl alcohol. The substance is likely from an infestation of mealy bugs. After you remove the substance and any bugs from your orchid, spray it with a horticultural oil, insecticidal soap or isopropyl alcohol.

EMERGENCY

no.6

Your Orchid Has Bugs Crawling On It

Isolate the orchid and spray it with either a diluted horticultural oil or insecticidal soap. Do another follow-up treatment in a few days to remove any additional bugs that hatched.

EMERGENCY

no.7

Your Orchid Changed Color

Examine the situation. Light green spots on blooms indicate a natural aging process, while unopened buds with pink stems can indicate bud blast. If its leaves are dark green, the plant is likely not getting enough light, but white leaves indicate too much light. If the stem has turned brown, that means no more flowers will grow from it. Simply cut it back to the base of the plant.