



CROTON CARE

LIGHT

Croton (*Codiaeum variegatum*) needs abundant bright light for its colorful leaves. Place near a bright window with protection from scorching midday sun. Introduce stronger light gradually. Too little light can produce greener leaves and sparse growth; excessive sun may make foliage look dull or scorched.

WATERING

Water thoroughly when the top half-inch to inch of potting mix dries. Allow excess water to drain and empty the saucer. Keep moisture reasonably consistent without leaving roots soggy. Reduce watering in winter. Extended dryness and prolonged wet soil can both cause leaf loss.

SOIL

Use fertile, humus-rich houseplant potting mix that drains freely. A container with drainage holes is essential. Repot when the root ball has outgrown its pot, moving up only 1-2 inches in diameter. Keep the original planting depth and avoid large volumes of wet mix around small roots.

TEMPERATURE & HUMIDITY

Warm temperatures around 60-85°F and moderate to high humidity are best. Keep away from cold drafts and heating vents. Sudden changes in location or temperature can cause leaf drop. Bring outdoor plants inside before nights fall below 50°F and make changes in light gradually.

FERTILIZING & PRUNING

Feed lightly during active growth with a complete houseplant fertilizer at its labeled rate. Reduce feeding when growth slows. Prune leggy stems in spring to encourage branching, using clean tools. Wear gloves when cutting; sap can irritate skin and stain fabric. Wash hands after handling.

PESTS

Inspect leaf undersides and stems for spider mites, mealybugs and scale. Isolate affected plants promptly and use an appropriate labeled treatment. Keep leaves clean so pests are easier to spot. If foliage drops, check recent moves, temperature and soil moisture before changing the watering routine.