INDOOR BONSAI

Indoor Bonsai include Ficus, Schefflera (Arboricola), Barbados Cherry, Natal Plum, Mini Jade, Bougainvillea, Jaboticaba, Parrot's Beak, and many more!

LIGHT

Indoor bonsai need very bright light to thrive. Place them directly in your brightest window, ideally south-facing. If natural light is limited, supplemental grow lights may be needed. Light requirements vary somewhat by species.

FERTILIZER

Fertilize during periods of active growth with a balanced houseplant or bonsai-specific fertilizer, following product directions. Reduce feeding when growth slows. Avoid fertilizing immediately after repotting. to avoid stressing the tree.

PRUNING & SHAPING

Bonsai must be trained to maintain their shape and dense foliage. Light maintenance pruning can be done during active growth as needed to refine the tree's shape. Wires can help shape a tree gently and gradually, but never force a branch! Check the root system periodically and repot when the tree becomes root-bound or the soil structure begins to break down. Spring is generally the best time for repotting.

SOIL

For indoor bonsai, use a bonsai mix like Sol Soils Gritty Bonsai Mix or Espoma's Bonsai Mix.

TEMPERATURE

Humidity and warmth are key for indoor bonsai success. Indoor bonsai are generally tropical or subtropical species and should be protected from frost. Temperature needs vary by species, so check the care requirements for your specific tree before moving it outdoors or exposing it to cold temperatures. A room humidifier can help raise humidity around the plant if needed.

PET FRIENDLY?

Pet safety varies by species. Some common indoor bonsai, including Ficus and Schefflera (Arboricola), are not pet-safe.

Always verify the botanical name of your specific bonsai before placing it within reach of pets.

WATER

Check the soil regularly and water when it begins to dry, but never let the root ball dry out completely. Water thoroughly, let excess drain, and empty the saucer to prevent root rot. Ensure the pot has plenty of drainage. Reduce watering when growth slows in cooler months.

TROUBLESHOOTING

Under or over watering is a common challenge for new bonsai parents. Striking a good moisture balance will depend on the soil, pot size, and the type of tree being cultivated. Learn how your tree cycles through water by observing the soil's moisture in the days after watering.

Bonsai care requires patience. Significant reshaping or repotting should be done sparingly. Let the tree grow and heal in between repottings and big shapings.

This guide provides general bonsai care. Always check the specific requirements of your tree species, as light, temperature, watering, pruning, and winter care can vary significantly. For more species-specific guidance, visit Bonsai Empire's website!