

## DIY KOKEDAMA

Kokedama—a Japanese moss ball—the ultimate small-space garden. Each plant is contained in its own moss-covered pod and is suspended from the ceiling using inexpensive twine or sits in a cute bowl or on a decorative plate. To make your own, follow these simple steps.

### What You'll Need

1. small plant (see note on picking the right plants, below)
2. potting soil
3. peat moss
4. perlite (to aerate the soil)
5. sheet moss (found at Home Depot or Michael's)
6. twine

### Step 1: Mix your soil in a bowl

- 1 part potting soil
- 1 part peat moss
- ½ part perlite

Add enough water to be able to form a ball that will stay together



### Step 2 Prepare your plant

Un-pot your plant and remove as much of the soil as you can. You should end up with a bare root.



### Step 3: Insert plant in soil ball

Make a hole in your soil ball while trying to keep the ball together. Insert roots in ball and close ball around the roots.



## Step 4: Wrap ball with moss

Soak moss in water before wrapping. Then wrap, covering all areas of soil.



## Step 5: Wrap ball with twine

Start wrapping moss around the soil ball. Make sure you cover the bottom and sides well so the moss is firmly held in place. You can use twine, yarn, thread, whatever. If you use a cotton material it will eventually dissolve, at which time your ball will be at the stage where the twine is no longer needed, as the moss will be rooted and will naturally hold its shape. Water thoroughly and you're done.



You now have a completed kokedama. You can use a simple hanger to hang it, or just set it in a bowl or on a plate.



## Plants suitable for Kokedama:

1. Many varieties of fern, including maidenhair ferns and bird's nest ferns
2. Staghorn ferns
3. Jade
4. Pothos
5. Philodendron
6. Begonias
7. Succulents
8. Spider plants
9. Snake plant (*Sansevieria Trifasciata*)

This is my favorite pick for darker corners. It has a sculptural appearance, adds a bit of green, and seems to thrive on neglect.

Cacti and succulents are not suitable for kokedama as the moss ball retains moisture which is not appropriate for succulents and cacti which prefer dryness.

## Care of your kokedama:

Mist daily! Your kokedama needs moisture and humidity. Misting will help towards this end. You can also keep your kokedama in a bowl with fine gravel, or stones, in the bottom. Put water in the stones to increase humidity. This is the best way to display and maintain your kokedama.

Once a week soak your kokedama thoroughly for about 10 minutes. Then drain for about 10 minutes before returning it to its bowl.

You can tell when your kokedama needs watering by holding it in your hand. If it's light, it needs water. If it's heavy, it doesn't.

You can put your kokedama outdoors during the warm months, but remember that these are generally indoor plants and will not withstand the cold winters outside. Also, if there is a rainy spell they may get too much water which could also be detrimental to them.