



# The Right Pottery and Soil for Succulents

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# Choose the Right Pot

The right pot and the right plant can make a great marriage. The essential feature the pot must have is a drainage hole. While some experienced succulents growers have success without a drainage hole, it's not the best option for succulents.

Succulents thrive in well-drained soil and do not like to sit in water. Using a pot with a drainage hole will allow water to flow out of the pot quickly and help the succulent roots to dry easily, giving the plants a better chance to thrive.

Avoid the terrarium trap. Glass terrariums can be beautiful, but rarely have a drainage hole. Succulents can survive in such a container, but save that project until you are a more experienced succulent grower.

## Where to buy

If you love the look of artisan made pots, I highly recommend pottery from Susan Aach. Her planters are beautiful and are specifically designed for succulents--they all have drainage holes.

[Click here to buy a Susan Aach Pot](#)

Another fantastic option, especially if you'd like something somewhat small is Dalla Vita. They sell pots with or without succulents.

[Click here to buy pottery from Dalla Vita](#)

A more unusual option is a wine bottle planter from Looking Sharp Cactus. Unlike most glass containers, these have a drainage hole so they work well for succulents.

[Click here to buy a wine bottle planter from Looking Sharp Cactus](#)

Lastly, you can also find a great selection of pottery through Mountain Crest Gardens. They have the often sought for mini terra cotta pots that work great for wedding favors. You'll also find a wide variety of pots in many shapes and sizes.

[Click here to buy pottery from Mountain Crest Gardens](#)

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# Selecting the Right Soil

Succulents flourish in well-drained soil. That is why a drainage hole is so important. Likewise, using the wrong soil can kill a succulent. In fact, I have killed more succulents using ordinary potting soil than anything else. As I've said before, succulent roots don't like to sit in water--they will rot.

## The Perfect Succulent Soil Recipe

As a general rule, you want to plant succulents in a well-drained soil that has relatively large particles, about ¼" or 6mm.

The best soil I've used for succulents combines equal parts **pine bark fines, crushed granite and turf**. Most of these ingredients can be found at Home Depot or Lowes, or at a local nursery.

If you'd like to purchase soil pre-mixed and ready-to-go, you can order your soil at Bonsai Jack. While I used to make the soil mix myself, I not get it exclusively from Bonsai Jack as it is great quality and convenient.

[Click here to purchase succulent soil from Bonsai Jack](#)

If the above recommendations don't work out for you, as an alternative you can purchase pumice, or a course grain sand (as opposed to fine grain beach sand).

[Click here to purchase pumice from General Pumice Products](#)

Succulents simply have different soil requirements than most plants. The large particle size is essential for succulent success.

## A Word About Roots

The reason succulents prefer well-drained soil with large particles is because it allows for airflow around their roots. Water is able to drain through the soil and dry out quickly. The roots are able to get the moisture they need without becoming waterlogged.

Each of the recommended components for the gritty succulent soil mix above absorbs water easily, so they will store just enough water for the roots to get what they need before the soil dries out.

You can learn more about growing succulents at  
[www.succulentsandsunshine.com](http://www.succulentsandsunshine.com)