

A snake plant is a good choice for a client who travels often because it tolerates missed waterings and adapts to a range of indoor light. Choose a healthy plant in a pot with drainage, and add a simple care note so your client knows when to water it.

Why a snake plant works

Snake plants store water in their thick, upright leaves. They prefer their soil to dry out between waterings, so an empty office or home for a week or two is usually less of a problem than it would be for a plant that likes consistently moist soil.

They also grow well in bright, indirect light and tolerate lower light. That gives your client some flexibility in choosing a spot. Growth will generally be slower in a dim room, though, and no plant can live indefinitely without light.

The leaves have a tidy shape that suits a desk, shelf, or floor near a window. A small plant is easier to carry into an office, while a larger one can make a useful gift if you know there is space for it.

There is one important drawback: snake plants are toxic to cats and dogs if eaten. If your client has a pet that chews plants, choose a pet safe alternative, such as a cast iron plant, and still keep it out of reach where practical.

How to prepare it for your client

A few thoughtful choices can make the plant easier to look after from the day it arrives. You do not need to add elaborate supplies or instructions.

1. **Check the leaves.** Look for firm leaves without widespread soft spots or obvious damage.

2. **Choose a draining pot.** A hole in the bottom lets excess water escape. If you use a decorative outer pot, tell your client to empty any water that collects in it.
3. **Include a care note.** Suggest a spot with indirect light and explain that the soil should dry out before the next watering.
4. **Keep the schedule flexible.** Encourage your client to check the soil rather than water on a fixed day. A plant in a cool, dim room may need water less often than one in a warm, bright room.

If your client is about to leave, resist watering just to be helpful. Check the soil first. If it is still damp, adding more water can leave the roots sitting wet while nobody is there to notice.

Questions you might have

How long can a snake plant go without water?

It can often go several weeks, but the timing depends on the pot, light, temperature, and season. Check that the soil has dried before watering again.

Can it stay in an office with little natural light?

It can tolerate low light, but it still needs some light. A completely dark office is not a good permanent home.

Should I repot it before giving it?

Not necessarily. If the plant looks healthy and its nursery pot has drainage holes, leaving it there avoids disturbing the roots. You can place that pot inside a decorative one.

Have a look at Polish life in Vienna