

# Propagating Pothos: From Humble Cuttings to Lush Greenery



## A Touch of Botany: The Humble Pothos

The pothos, also known as devil's ivy or golden creeper, is a tropical vine native to Southeast Asia and the Solomon Islands. It belongs to the Araceae family, which also includes philodendrons and monstera. With its heart-shaped leaves and trailing growth habit, the pothos is a versatile indoor plant that thrives in a variety of conditions. Different pothos varieties boast a range of foliage colors and patterns, from the classic jade green to variegated options with splashes of white, cream, or yellow.

## Beyond Beauty: The Benefits of Pothos

Not only is the pothos easy on the eyes, but it's also easy on the lungs! This popular houseplant is a champion when it comes to air purification. Studies have shown that pothos can remove common toxins like formaldehyde and benzene from the indoor environment, making it a valuable addition to any home or office.

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Now that you've learned a little more about the wonder that is pothos, let's delve into multiplying your existing plant! This guide will show you how to propagate your pothos using stem

cuttings, giving you a fun and free way to create a mini pothos jungle.

### **Materials Needed:**

- Sharp pruning shears or secateurs
- Glass jar or vase (for water propagation)
- Well-draining potting mix
- Pot with drainage holes

### **Choosing Your Cutting:**

- Select a healthy, mature vine with several leaves.
- Ideally, your cutting should be at least 4-6 inches long.
- Look for a stem with at least one or two nodes (the bump where a leaf meets the stem). New roots will emerge from these nodes.

### **Making the Cut:**

- Using your sharp pruners, make a clean cut just below a node at a 45-degree angle. This angled cut encourages better root growth.
- You can also take multiple cuttings from a single vine, as long as each cutting has at least one node.

### **Water Propagation:**

1. Fill a clean glass jar or vase with fresh, room-temperature water.
2. Place the pothos cutting in the jar, ensuring at least one node (and ideally a couple of leaves) are submerged in the water.
3. Position the jar in a warm location with bright,

indirect sunlight. Avoid direct sunlight, which can heat up the water and stress the cutting.

4. Change the water every few days to prevent bacteria growth.

**Pro Tip for Water Propagation:** For faster root growth, consider adding a few drops of a liquid fertilizer solution to the water every time you change it. A diluted solution will provide essential nutrients to the developing roots.

### Soil Propagation:

1. Fill a pot with drainage holes with a well-draining potting mix specifically formulated for houseplants.
2. Moisten the potting mix, but avoid making it soggy.
3. Dip the cut end of the pothos cutting into rooting hormone (optional) to encourage root development.
4. Plant the cutting in the pot, ensuring at least one node is buried slightly below the soil surface.
5. Water the soil gently to settle it around the cutting.
6. Place the pot in a warm location with bright, indirect sunlight.

### **Aftercare:**

- Whether you choose water or soil propagation, monitor your pothos cutting regularly.
- For water propagation, watch for roots to sprout from the nodes. Once the roots reach about an inch or two in length, you can transplant the cutting to a pot with soil.
- For soil propagation, keep the soil consistently moist but not soggy. Feel the top inch of soil regularly; water when it feels dry to the touch.
- New leaves emerging from the cutting signify successful rooting.

## **Tips for Success:**

- Use clean, sharp tools to