

When a succulent arrives with damaged leaves, check the plant carefully, leave firm leaves in place, and give it a stable spot to recover. Photograph any serious damage promptly and contact the seller if you need help with your order.

Look closely before you make changes

Unpack the succulent gently and check the leaves, stem, pot, and soil. A few loose leaves or small marks may have appeared during handling. Bruised tissue can look darker than the surrounding leaf, while a broken leaf may have an exposed edge.

Notice how much of the plant is affected. A firm stem and mostly healthy leaves are reassuring signs. Widespread soft or mushy tissue deserves closer attention, especially if it has an unpleasant smell. Keep the plant separate from other houseplants while you inspect it, and check for any visible pests.

Take clear photos of the plant and its packaging before discarding the box. If several leaves have fallen off, include them in a photo too. These details can help explain what arrived without relying on a written description alone.

Give the plant time to settle

Place the succulent in bright, indirect light at first, away from cold drafts and harsh direct sun. A journey in a dark box can be stressful, and sudden exposure to strong sunlight can scorch leaves. Give the plant time to adjust before moving it to a brighter position suited to its needs.

Check the soil before watering. If it is still damp, wait. Succulents store water in their leaves and stems, and wet soil can take time to dry. When the soil is dry, water thoroughly and let excess water drain away. A pot with a drainage hole makes this easier.

Leave a damaged leaf attached if it is still firm and the injury is small. A scar will not disappear, but the leaf can remain useful to the plant. Remove a leaf that is fully detached or clearly soft and rotting. Use clean fingers or clean scissors, and avoid pulling hard on the stem.

Ask for help if the damage is serious

Contact the seller soon if the plant arrived badly crushed, the stem is broken, or much of the plant is soft. Send the photos along with your order details and a brief description of the damage. Check the seller's delivery policy for any reporting deadline or instructions.

Recovery can be slow. Watch for firm new growth rather than expecting marked leaves to look perfect again. A succulent can still be worth keeping with a few blemishes, though extensive damage may make a replacement or another remedy reasonable to discuss.

Questions about damaged succulent leaves

Will a broken leaf heal?

The damaged edge may dry, but the missing part will not grow back. New leaves can develop as the plant grows.

Should I remove every marked leaf?

No. Keep firm leaves with minor marks. Removing too many healthy leaves puts extra stress on the plant.

Can a fallen leaf grow into a new plant?

Some succulent leaves can produce roots and new growth, but not every type propagates this way, and not every leaf succeeds.

Should I repot it immediately?

Usually it is sensible to let the plant settle first. Consider repotting sooner if the pot is broken or the soil remains excessively wet.

Further reading: read the full article