

Yes, remove any eucalyptus leaves that would sit below the waterline in a vase. Leave the rest in place unless you need to thin the stems for your arrangement.

Why leaves should stay out of the water

Leaves left underwater can decay and make vase water dirty. Removing them helps keep the water clearer and makes it easier to see when the vase needs cleaning.

You do not need to strip a eucalyptus stem bare. The leaves are part of its shape and appearance, so keep those that sit above the water. How much of the lower stem needs clearing depends on the depth of the vase and how much water you add.

Check the waterline after arranging the stems, not just before. A stem may sit lower than you expect once it is among other flowers. If you add more water later, check the leaves again.

How to prepare the stems

Start with a clean vase and fresh water. Hold each stem beside the vase to judge where the waterline will fall, then remove the leaves from the part that will be submerged.

- Pull or snip off lower leaves, taking care not to damage the stem.
- Trim the stem ends with clean, sharp scissors or floral shears.
- Place the stems in water and check that no leaves are submerged.
- Remove any loose leaves that fall into the vase.

If a leaf is difficult to pull away, use scissors rather than tearing at the stem. You can also trim a crowded area above the waterline if it helps the eucalyptus fit, but there is no need to remove those leaves for the sake of the water.

Keeping the arrangement tidy

Check the vase regularly. Replace cloudy water, rinse the vase and remove any plant material that has fallen in. Fresh water will not restore leaves that have already dried or deteriorated, so take those off if they spoil the look of the arrangement.

If the eucalyptus shares a vase with flowers, keep all foliage above the waterline, not just the eucalyptus leaves. Stems can shift as you move the vase or replace the water, so take a moment to check them each time.

Keep cut eucalyptus away from pets and children who might chew the leaves. Eucalyptus can be toxic if eaten. Discard removed leaves where they cannot be reached.

Common questions

Can eucalyptus leaves stay on the stem?

Yes. Keep the leaves above the waterline and remove only those that would be submerged, along with any you want to thin for appearance.

Should I remove leaves from dry eucalyptus?

Not necessarily. If the stems are displayed without water, remove leaves only if they are damaged, loose or in the way.

What if a leaf falls into the vase?

Take it out as soon as you notice it. If the water has become cloudy, empty and rinse the vase before adding fresh water.

More background: https://ytpanelmonitor.com/how-to-order-flowers-online-and-avoid-common-mistakes/