

## Anemone: Care Tips for the Florist

1. Anemones should be purchased in the bud stage, when some color is showing but not very much.

2. When purchased, anemones can be stored either dry or wet. To store dry, keep the flowers in a vertical position in a dark, cool (34°F) place.

3. Before using anemones in an arrangement, you should condition them first. Unpack the flowers and loosen them to allow for some air circulation.

4. Recut the stems about 1 to 2 inches and remove any foliage which will be submerged underwater. Cutting the stems on the diagonal will allow for greater efficiency in water uptake.

5. Place the flowers in a bucket of deep, warm (100° to 110°F) water which has been mixed with a floral preservative. Let stand until the water gradually reaches room temperature, a process that will take a couple of hours.

6. Conditioning of anemones should take place under high relative humidity (90 to 94 percent).

7. Store conditioned anemones in the refrigerator at a temperature of 40° to 50°F. This will prolong storage life as much as possible, but anemones should not be kept in the shop for long as their vase life is relatively short.

8. While storing anemones wet in your shop, check the water levels every day and replenish with a solution of preservative and water as needed.

9. Like many other tuber, bulb or corm plants, anemones are extremely susceptible to the effects of ethylene gas. They should be kept away from sources of ethylene such as exhaust fumes from delivery vehicles. Most especially, they should not be stored with other flowers which produce excessive amounts of ethylene such as chrysanthemums and snapdragons.

10. The color range of anemones—everything from white and shades of pink and red to blues and purples—and the vividness of their colors make these flowers a good design choice for spring arrangements. Anemones are especially effective in garden-style designs or in “unarranged” arrangements.

## What to Tell Your Customers

1. It's a good idea to keep arrangements with anemones in them away from drafts, either hot or cold. Too much air circulation around the flowers will cause them to lose excessive moisture from the heads and foliage, leading to premature wilting.

2. Anemones should also be kept away from sources of heat, such as radiators, television sets and windows that receive direct sunlight. Heat will tend to make the flowers droop.

3. Check the water level of the vase or arrangement every day. If the flowers have been arranged in a base of floral foam, press down on the foam with your finger to test for moisture. Replenish water as needed.

4. The use of floral preservative to prolong the vase life of anemones is strongly recommended. Floral preservative is available from the florist and should be applied according to package instructions.