

Frequently asked Questions @ the Wood Element & Live Plants

If I made a recommendation for you to use the Wood element as an adjustment to your house or business, a live leafy plant is the best representation for the Wood element (for Feng Shui purposes).

For an average sized room, a medium sized plant should be acceptable.



For a large room, in excess of 200 square feet, you may need a larger plant.



We need to be careful not to relate to the Wood (element) phase exclusively as a live plant or green color. It just so happens that in Feng Shui practice, we sometimes think of the Wood element as *synonymous* with a plant or green color, but in Chinese medicine the Wood phase relates to the liver. And there are a multitude of other associations with the Wood phase, aka the Wood element.

For interior adjustments, the Wood element is often used to strengthen fire and the goal here might be to improve heart or eye health. There are other reasons for using live plants which are not directly related to Five Element Theory.

Sometimes, a live plant is used just to direct qi flow or buffer it.

You may have been instructed to place a live plant between an entrance and exit that are directly aligned with each other. In this case, you would also need to use a plant that is an appropriate size in relation to the size of the room.

Will a fake plant work in place of a live plant?

A fake plant will not resonate the wood phase when you need it to strengthen the fire phase (in the same way that a wax apple will not give you the nutrition of a real apple.)

A fake plant will also not be as appropriate as a live plant to re-direct (or absorb) qi. However, we can't deny that a large fake plant would have to buffer qi flow as surely as a couch or any other piece of furniture positioned between two doors or windows.

I've heard that dried plants have bad Feng Shui. Is that true?

A dried flower arrangement is not "bad" Feng Shui, even though this popular myth endures.

Isn't wood furniture the Wood element?

Wood furniture or wood flooring does resonate some of the Wood phase, but most of the time it would still be good to use a live plant, with a responsive nervous system.

Are bamboo plants the best type of live plant to use?

Chinese culture loves the bamboo plant and there are many symbolic associations with bamboo. But there is really nothing superior to it, compared with other healthy plants.

If using a live plant is impossible for some reason, you could use a large display of green color to *approach* taking the place of a real plant.

This can be manifested with green wall color, green fabric, such as with bedding, green rugs or green art work. It really has to be on a large and noticeable scale.



Do cut flowers count as the Wood element?

I would say that a live bouquet of flowers can work as the Wood element, but within days you have a wood remedy in a downward phase, rapidly dying. If it is possible to continually maintain and replace cut flowers in an area that needs the wood adjustment, it could work.

Are there bad locations for live plants?

As with all the “Five Phases” or the “Five Transformations” that we deal with in Feng Shui, there could be areas where you don’t want water, fire, metal, earth or **wood**. A classical Xuan Kong practitioner who reads the Flying Star Chart for the house or building should be able to determine where not to place a live plant, as much as where one should use a live plant.