

# Pressing Flowers (Successfully)

## What You'll Need

- Flower press (or two flat boards/heavy books)
- Absorbent paper: blotting paper, coffee filters, or unprinted paper towels
- Cardboard sheets (for airflow)
- Scissors/secateurs & tweezers
- Silica sachets (optional) to keep the press area dry
- Elastic straps or clamps (if not using a screw press)

## Step-by-Step

- 1 Pick at the right time. Choose fresh blooms at peak, dry of rain/dew. Avoid overopen or bruised petals.
- 2 Prep the stems. Remove bulky calyx/leaves. For thick flowers, split the bloom or press single petals/florets.
- 3 Layer the press. Board ® cardboard ® blotting paper ® flowers (face down or arranged) ® blotting paper ® cardboard. Repeat.
- 4 Space is key. Leave a little room between blooms so moisture can escape evenly.
- 5 Close & compress. Tighten the press evenly (or stack heavy books). Label the date.
- 6 Drying time. Keep in a warm, dry, dark place for 2–3 weeks.
- 7 Change papers. After 3–4 days (and again at one week), carefully swap out damp papers to prevent mould.
- 8 Check & finish. When petals feel papery and cool to the touch (no flex), they're done. Handle with tweezers.



Pansy



Cosmos



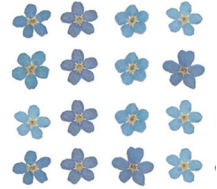
Delphinium



Hydrangea Floret



Gomphrena



Forget-Me-Not



Fern Frond



Queen Anne's Lace



Daisy



Rose Petal



Anemone



Gerbera



Astrantia



Cornflower Petal



Nigella



Statice



Lavender



Buttercup

## How to Prevent Rot & Keep Colour

- Press only dry material. If you've rinsed stems, blot completely before pressing.
- Work quickly after cutting; wilting increases browning.
- Use fresh, absorbent paper and change it during week one.
- Keep the press in a warm (18–24°C), low humidity, dark spot. Avoid sunlight (colour fade) and bathrooms (humidity).
- For fleshy blooms, press petals or florets rather than the whole head, or prewilt 2–3 hours in a vase with minimal water.
- Optionally add small silica gel sachets near (not on) the papers to reduce moisture.
- Do not overload—thick stacks trap moisture and cause mould.

## Finishing Touches

- Seal if desired with a conservation spray (UV resistant) before mounting.
- Mount on acid-free card using a tiny dot of pH-neutral PVA or archival tape—use tweezers.
- Store spares in glassine envelopes within a dry box with a silica sachet.