

- **Should I cut the stalk down on my orchid now that the flower has faded? Should I cut the bruised looking roots?**

When your orchid is still blooming, remove each flower as it fades. Using sharp pruning shears or a straight edged razor blade to cut back the flower to the main branch. Once the orchid is completely finished blooming, it is time to do the major pruning. If your orchid is a Phalaenopsis orchid, it is possible to get a re-bloom from its old spike (stem) as long as it is still a healthy green colour. Cut the stem off leaving two nodes, one of these nodes will then initiate and generally produce flowers within 8-12 weeks. If there are any places on the stalk that have turned yellow or brown it is an indication that it will not bloom again so just cut the spike off completely about one inch above its base. Many orchid growers do not recommend trying to bloom a Phalaenopsis orchid more than once from the same spike, because blooming your orchid repeatedly can exhaust the plant. Instead, cutting it all the way back (to one inch above base) will encourage stronger growth and larger blooms. If your orchid is a Dendrobium orchid, trim the flowers off as they fade but do not cut down the stem. Next year it will flower on the same stalk. Next, replant the orchid into a bigger pot in order to allow it more room to grow. When doing this you have the chance to cut off any bruised, dead, or damaged roots.

Sources:

www.gardeningknowhow.com/ornamental/flowers/orchids/indoor-orchid-care.htm

aos.org

orchidsmadeeasy.com