ORCHIDEE – PALM BEACH SHOP

Orchid Care Guide

Standardized Care Protocols for Residential, Estate, and Interior Design Installations



Business Professional Edition
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1. Executive Summary

This guide establishes a standardized, actionable care protocol for orchids supplied by **Orchidee – Palm Beach Shop**, covering the full plant lifecycle from post-purchase placement through reblooming. It is designed for three primary audiences: retail customers maintaining one or several orchids in residential settings; estate clients and property managers overseeing larger collections; and interior designers specifying orchids for staging and long-term installations. Each section concludes with specific actions and cadences so that care responsibilities can be assigned and verified.

The guide's central premise is that orchid failure is rarely caused by neglect; it is most often caused by well-intentioned over-management — principally overwatering, excessive direct sun, and premature repotting. Correcting these three behaviors addresses the majority of observed plant losses. Accordingly, the protocols in Sections 4 through 6 emphasize **measurement** (checking media moisture before every watering), **restraint** (defined rest periods between bloom cycles), and **prevention** (scheduled inspections rather than reactive treatment).

Four governing principles apply to every recommendation in this document:

1. **Water by need, not by calendar.** Water only after the potting medium has approached dryness — typically every 7–10 days under standard indoor conditions.
2. **Provide bright, indirect light.** East or west exposure with filtered morning sun supports foliage health and reliable spike development.
3. **Maintain air movement.** Gentle, continuous circulation reduces fungal pressure and stabilizes leaf temperature.
4. **Feed weakly, weekly.** A dilute, balanced fertilizer at reduced strength during active growth outperforms sporadic heavy feeding.

Consistent application of this guide is expected to deliver three measurable outcomes: extended bloom duration (8–12 weeks per cycle for Phalaenopsis under proper conditions), reliable annual reblooming, and reduced plant replacement costs. Section 5 provides a diagnostic matrix for resolving emerging issues quickly, and Section 7 consolidates all actions into a single checklist with recommended cadence and ownership.

All recommendations reflect standard horticultural practice published by the American Orchid Society, adapted to South Florida growing conditions and to Orchidee's product lines and client base.

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2. Introduction & Scope

2.1 Purpose and Intended Audience

This document serves as the authoritative care reference for orchids supplied by Orchidee – Palm Beach Shop. Its purpose is threefold: to standardize care practices across all client segments, to reduce preventable plant loss, and to provide a verifiable framework that owners can delegate to household staff or property managers. The protocols apply to orchids kept in typical indoor residential and estate environments in Palm Beach County and comparable South Florida conditions, where high ambient humidity and strong seasonal light distinguish local care from generic nationwide guidance.

Three audiences are addressed, each with distinct operational needs. **Retail customers** maintaining one to five plants should treat Sections 3 and 4 as the mandatory reading path, supplemented by the diagnostic matrix in Section 5 when symptoms appear. **Estate clients and property managers** overseeing larger collections must additionally implement the preventive inspection cadence defined in Section 5.3 and the seasonal calendar in Section 6.3, and should assign a named Owner for each cadence. **Interior designers and installers** selecting orchids for staging or permanent installations should prioritize placement criteria (§4.1–4.2) and the quick-reference variety chart in Appendix A, since species selection is the single most consequential design decision for long-term plant performance.

The scope deliberately excludes commercial greenhouse production, laboratory propagation, and exhibition-grade cultivation of award-potential specimen plants. These activities require controlled-environment infrastructure beyond the residential settings this guide addresses. Where a client's ambitions outgrow the scope — for example, a collection exceeding 50 plants — the recommended action is a structured consultation with Orchidee rather than ad hoc protocol extension.

2.2 About Orchidee – Palm Beach Shop and Care Philosophy

Orchidee – Palm Beach Shop (orchidspalmbeach.com) is a Palm Beach–based orchid supplier serving retail customers, estates, and design professionals throughout Palm Beach County. The shop's offering combines blooming-quality plants with after-sales support that includes variety-specific care guidance, repotting, and spike or bloom-stage selection for installation projects. Client relationships typically begin at the point of purchase and continue through the plant's lifecycle, which is why this guide emphasizes repeatable routines over one-time instructions.

The shop's care philosophy rests on a single premise: orchids are not difficult to maintain — they are simply different from conventional houseplants, and most failures trace to applying standard potted-plant habits to an epiphytic species. Three commitments follow from this premise. First, **match the plant to the room** before purchase, since no care routine can compensate for a fundamentally unsuitable location. Second, **replicate the**

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plant's native conditions in miniature — filtered light, moving air, rapid root drainage — rather than attempting to force adaptation. Third, **intervene minimally but consistently**, because scheduled observation catches problems at the stage when correction is inexpensive.

Section 3 builds on this philosophy by describing the botanical characteristics that explain why these commitments work, providing the foundation for every protocol that follows.

3. Orchid Fundamentals

3.1 The Orchid Family at a Glance

The orchid family (Orchidaceae) is one of the largest families of flowering plants, comprising roughly 25,000 naturally occurring species on every continent except Antarctica, with tens of thousands of registered hybrids bred for cultivation. Two biological characteristics of the family drive every care decision in this guide. First, the majority of cultivated orchids are **epiphytes**: in their native habitats they anchor to tree branches and rock faces rather than growing in soil, with roots fully exposed to moving air and rapid drainage. This is why orchids fail in dense, water-retentive potting soil and why the coarse, airy media specified in Section 4.4 are non-negotiable. Second, most cultivated varieties store water in thickened leaves or pseudobulbs, which means they tolerate short periods of dryness far better than continuously saturated roots.

The operational conclusion is stated plainly: **under-attention is recoverable; overwatering usually is not.** A dehydrated orchid with wrinkled leaves typically recovers within weeks of corrected watering, whereas rotted roots require repotting and months of regrowth — if the plant survives at all. Every protocol in Sections 4 through 6 is designed to keep the root system aerobic, which is the single environmental condition all recommended varieties share.

3.2 Recommended Varieties for Palm Beach Homes & Estates

Five genera account for the overwhelming majority of Orchidee's client demand, and each carries distinct performance characteristics relevant to placement decisions. The following summary defines the selection baseline; the full quick-reference chart appears in Appendix A.

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Table 1: Recommended variety summary for residential and estate selection

Variety	Typical Bloom Duration	Light Requirement	Care Level	Recommended Use
Phalaenopsis (Moth Orchid)	8–12 weeks	Low to medium, indirect	Easiest	First purchases, staging, offices
Cattleya	2–4 weeks	Bright, filtered	Moderate	Statement pieces, fragrance interest
Dendrobium	4–6 weeks	Bright, indirect	Moderate	Growing collections
Vanda	4–8 weeks	Very bright	Demanding	Covered lanais, bright atriums
Oncidium	4–6 weeks	Medium to bright	Easy–moderate	Color accents, windowsills

Two selection rules follow from this table. **Phalaenopsis is the default recommendation** for first-time owners and for interior installations where predictability of bloom duration is the priority; it tolerates the widest range of indoor light conditions and reblooms reliably under residential care. **Vanda should be specified only for covered outdoor spaces or very bright interior atriums**, conditions that Palm Beach estates frequently offer on lanais and loggias; it underperforms in standard rooms and is the most common source of preventable dissatisfaction when placed incorrectly.

3.3 Growth Cycle and Bloom Phases

Every orchid in this guide progresses through four phases annually, and each phase carries a distinct resource priority. **Vegetative growth** (new leaves and roots) requires regular dilute feeding and is the correct window for repotting. **Spike initiation** typically follows a nighttime temperature drop of approximately 10°F (5–6°C), which in South Florida occurs naturally in autumn — this trigger is exploited deliberately in the reblooming strategy of Section 6.2. **Bloom** demands stability: the plant should not be moved, repotted, or fertilized at full strength while flowers are open. **Rest** follows bloom; the plant's metabolism slows, watering frequency drops, and feeding pauses.

A documented pattern of preventable loss deserves explicit warning: owners frequently misread the rest phase as decline and respond with increased watering or premature repotting, both of which damage a dormant plant. Rest is characterized by paused growth, not by deterioration. The corrective action is procedural — owners should record the purchase date and note spike timing each season, enabling phase transitions to be anticipated rather than diagnosed reactively. Section 6 formalizes this record-keeping into the seasonal calendar, and Section 4 translates the biology above into the five operational protocols that govern daily care.

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4. Core Care Protocols

The five protocols below convert the botanical foundations of Section 3 into assignable operating routines. Each protocol states the standard, the verification method, and the required frequency, so that care can be delegated and audited. Deviation from a standard is permitted only in the direction of restraint — less intervention, not more.

4.1 Light Management

Light is the primary determinant of reblooming; no fertilization program compensates for inadequate light. **Standard**: bright, indirect light for all varieties, with variety-specific ranges per Appendix A. **Placement rule**: east-facing windows are preferred (gentle morning sun), followed by west-facing windows filtered with sheers; south exposures require shading cloth or distance from the glass; unfiltered midday sun is prohibited, as it scorches leaf tissue within hours. For interior installations without usable windows, artificial lighting is acceptable — full-spectrum LEDs positioned 1–2 feet above the foliage on a 12–16 hour daily cycle.

Verification is visual and requires no instruments: healthy leaf color is a medium grass-green. Very dark green foliage indicates insufficient light; yellow-green foliage with a reddish tinge indicates excess. Designers should reconcile placement decisions against these signals at the first monthly inspection rather than after a failed bloom cycle.

4.2 Temperature, Humidity, and Air Circulation

Standard ranges: 65–80°F (18–27°C) daytime, 60–65°F (16–18°C) nighttime, with Phalaenopsis held above 60°F at all times. South Florida's climate is an asset here; the operational risks are mechanical rather than meteorological. Air conditioning dehumidifies indoor spaces below the 50–70% humidity target, so plants should be grouped or placed on humidity trays where needed. More critically, **orchids must never sit in the direct discharge of AC vents or fans**, which desiccates buds and causes bud blast.

Air circulation is mandatory but must be gentle: continuous, indirect movement — a ceiling fan on low or an oscillating fan on a distant setting — suppresses fungal pressure and stabilizes leaf temperature. **Verification**: foliage should be dry by mid-morning and show no persistent condensation; stagnant corners and closed rooms fail this test and require relocation of the plant or adjustment of airflow.

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4.3 Watering Protocol

Standard: water by need, not by calendar. Before every watering, verify that the potting medium has approached dryness; under typical indoor conditions this yields the 7–10 day interval stated in the Executive Summary, but the check — finger test, lifted pot weight, or wooden skewer — takes precedence over any interval. **Approved method**: thorough soaking. Carry the plant to a sink, apply room-temperature water generously through the medium, allow full drainage, and return it to its position; never leave a pot standing in water. Reduce frequency during the rest phase (§3.3) and increase it for bare-root Vanda, which dries fastest.

Water quality: use room-temperature filtered or rainwater where practical; softened water is prohibited due to sodium accumulation. For completeness, the "ice cube method" marketed by some retailers is noted but **not adopted** as this guide's standard: the American Orchid Society and Smithsonian Gardens advise against it on the grounds that chilled roots cause cumulative damage, and soaking delivers superior results at equivalent effort. **Owner verification**: confirm drainage after every watering and inspect root color during the monthly inspection (§5.3) — healthy roots are green when wet, silvery when dry.

4.4 Potting Media and Repotting

Media standard: coarse bark-based mix for Phalaenopsis, Oncidium, and Dendrobium; chunkier, faster-draining bark for Cattleya; bare-root slatted baskets for Vanda. Organic media decomposes over time and must be renewed on schedule — this is maintenance, not optional care. **Repotting interval**: every 1–2 years, or immediately when media breaks down, sours, or drains poorly. Repot only after bloom completion, during active vegetative growth (§3.3).

Procedure: (1) unpot and remove all old media from roots; (2) trim dead or mushy roots with sterilized shears; (3) select a pot no more than 1 inch wider than the root mass; (4) seat the plant, fill with damp media, and stake if needed; (5) withhold water for approximately one week to allow cut surfaces to seal. **Prohibition**: repotting during bloom is not permitted under any circumstances — it is the most common cause of self-inflicted bud loss reported to the shop.

4.5 Fertilization Program

Standard: "weakly, weekly" — a balanced fertilizer (e.g., 20-20-20) applied at quarter to half the label-recommended strength, once weekly during active growth, followed by a monthly plain-water flush to prevent salt accumulation. Feeding pauses during bloom and the rest phase. The seasonal schedule is consolidated below:

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Table 2: Seasonal fertilization schedule

Season	Feeding	Cadence
Spring–Summer (active growth)	Balanced 20-20-20, ¼–½ strength	Weekly
Autumn (spike initiation)	Transition to low-nitrogen ("bloom booster")	Every 2–3 weeks
Winter / Rest phase	Pause feeding entirely	Monthly flush only

Verification: leaf-tip browning indicates salt buildup and mandates an immediate flush and dilution review; lush dark growth that refuses to bloom typically indicates excess nitrogen relative to available light and is corrected by reducing feeding before any other variable. Sections 5 and 6 now build on these five protocols — Section 5 covers fault-finding when verification checks fail, and Section 6 governs the bloom cycle the protocols exist to support.

5. Troubleshooting & Risk Management

This section defines the fault-response framework for collections managed under the Section 4 protocols: how problems are **detected** (the inspection cadence in §5.3), **diagnosed** (the matrix in §5.2), and **corrected** (the treatments in §5.1). The governing principle is that most observed faults are symptoms of a protocol deviation — in watering, light, or airflow — and diagnosis therefore begins with a protocol review, not with chemical treatment. Escalation to the shop is a defined outcome, not a failure of care.

5.1 Common Pests and Diseases

Four agents account for nearly all residential plant losses, and each has a defined first response. **Mealybugs** appear as white cottony masses in leaf axils and leaf undersides; on detection, the plant is isolated immediately, visible insects are dabbed with 70% isopropyl alcohol on a cotton swab, and the treatment is repeated weekly for three to four weeks, with insecticidal soap reserved for persistent cases. **Scale** presents as brown, stationary bumps along leaf midribs and is treated by the same sequence, with the added step of wiping the midribs to remove attached insects.

Root rot — the most costly fault — is indicated by mushy brown or black roots and wilting foliage despite wet media. Treatment is unpotting, trimming all rotted tissue with sterilized shears, repotting into fresh media per §4.4, and withholding water for one week; because prevention is the only reliable control, the watering protocol in §4.3 is the primary risk mitigation. **Fungal and bacterial leaf spotting** appears as water-soaked or purple-black lesions, typically following water left standing on leaves overnight; affected tissue is removed with a sterile blade, airflow is increased per §4.2, and watering is shifted to morning hours.

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A cost-discipline rule applies to all four agents: when an infestation compromises more than half of the plant, or recurs after two complete treatment cycles, replacement is the economically correct action. Continued remediation of a failing plant carries labor cost and contagion risk to the rest of the collection.

5.2 Diagnostic Matrix

The matrix below maps observed symptoms to probable causes and corrective actions, with cross-references to the governing protocols. It is designed for use during the monthly inspection; owners should keep it with their care records.

Table 3: Symptom → probable cause → corrective action

Symptom	Probable Cause	Corrective Action
Wrinkled, limp leaves; roots firm and green/silvery	Underwatering	Resume soaking per §4.3; recovery in 2–4 weeks
Wrinkled, limp leaves; roots mushy and brown	Overwatering / root rot	§5.1 root-rot treatment; review §4.3
Very dark green leaves; no blooms	Insufficient light	Relocate per §4.1; reassess at next inspection
Yellow-green leaves with reddish edges	Excess light	Filter or relocate per §4.1
Buds yellow and drop before opening (bud blast)	Cold draft, AC discharge, or plant moved during spike	Correct placement per §4.2; stabilize position
Leaf-tip browning on otherwise healthy leaves	Fertilizer salt buildup	Immediate plain-water flush per §4.5; dilute feeding
Sticky residue or white cottony masses	Mealybugs or scale	§5.1 isolation and treatment sequence
Black water-soaked lesions on leaves	Bacterial/fungal infection	Immediate isolation; §5.1 leaf-spot treatment
No new growth for 12+ months during growing season	Chronic low light, or rest phase misread as decline	Review §3.3 phase record and §4.1 light standard

Decision rule: a **single symptom** is corrected locally by the Owner using the matrix; **two or more concurrent symptoms**, or any fault unresolved after one correction cycle, triggers escalation to an Orchidee consultation (§7.2) with photographs taken in the same lighting as the inspection.

5.3 Preventive Maintenance Schedule

Prevention is scheduled work, not reactive work, and each cadence carries a named Owner — the individual accountable for completion and for recording results. The schedule below defines the five required routines:

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Table 4: Preventive maintenance cadence and ownership

Cadence	Activity	Owner	Reference
Weekly	Moisture check before each watering; foliage glance for pests	Named care Owner	§4.3
Monthly	Full inspection: leaf color both surfaces, axils, root color, media smell (sour = decomposing)	Named care Owner	§5.2 matrix
Quarterly	Plain-water media flush; light and placement reassessment	Named care Owner	§4.5, §4.1
Annually or on media breakdown	Repotting during vegetative growth	Named care Owner / Orchidee service	§4.4
At intake of any new plant	Quarantine from existing collection for 3 weeks	Named care Owner	§5.1

The **three-week quarantine at intake** is the highest-leverage low-cost control in this guide: nursery and retail environments are the leading vector for introducing mealybugs and scale into an established collection, and isolation converts that risk from a collection-wide incident into a contained one. Estate clients managing larger collections should log each inspection's date, findings, and actions taken, which materially improves diagnosis speed when faults do emerge. Section 6 now addresses the objective these controls exist to secure: consistent annual blooming.

6. Bloom Cycle & Reblooming Strategy

This section governs the outcome for which the preceding protocols exist: a repeatable annual bloom. It defines the decisions required when flowers drop (§6.1), the controlled conditions that initiate new spikes (§6.2), and the annual schedule that synchronizes all care activities (§6.3). The section assumes the Section 3 phase model and the Section 4 standards are in force; where a plant fails to rebloom under this strategy, the diagnostic sequence in §5.2 governs.

6.1 Post-Bloom Care and Spike Management

The first management decision occurs at final flower drop, and for Phalaenopsis it is a genuine fork. **Option A — node cut**: trim the spike approximately half an inch above the second node from the base; a secondary spike may emerge from that node within 8–12 weeks, producing faster but typically smaller blooms. **Option B — base cut** (recommended default): trim the spike at its base, allowing the plant a full recovery and a stronger spike the following season; this is the correct choice for young plants and after any demanding bloom cycle. All cuts are made with sterilized shears, and varieties that bloom from mature canes or bulbs — Dendrobium, Cattleya — follow a stricter rule: their flowering structures are left in place until fully browned, since the plant reabsorbs their reserves.

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Two prohibitions apply throughout the bloom window: no repotting, and no full-strength fertilization (§3.3, §4.5). Additionally, the bloom record is closed out administratively — purchase date, spike date, first bloom, and final flower are logged, because this record drives both the reblooming triggers in §6.2 and the calendar in §6.3.

6.2 Triggering New Spikes

Spike initiation is a controlled response to three levers, applied in order of impact. The **primary lever is temperature**: a sustained nighttime drop of approximately 10°F (5–6°C) for three to four weeks initiates spike development in Phalaenopsis. In South Florida this signal arrives naturally in October–November, and the owner's task is exposure — positioning the plant where it experiences the drop (a covered lanai or near a window) while remaining protected from actual cold. The **secondary lever is light**: plants maintained at the upper end of their light tolerance — without direct sun, per §4.1 — initiate spikes earlier and more reliably. The **tertiary lever is nutrition**: the low-nitrogen "bloom booster" transition specified in the autumn row of §4.5 supports spike development once the temperature and light conditions are met.

Expectations should be set explicitly for clients: from spike emergence to first flower takes 8–12 weeks, and a healthy Phalaenopsis managed under this regime reblooms annually. A missed bloom cycle is a diagnostic event, reviewed in a fixed order — light first (§4.1), then nutrition (§4.5), then health of the root system (§5.1) — rather than a reason to increase intervention.

6.3 Seasonal Care Calendar

The calendar consolidates the cadences defined in Sections 4 and 5 into a quarter-by-quarter operational rhythm. It is the reference document against which estate property managers schedule staff time and Orchidee service visits:

Table 5: Quarterly care calendar

Quarter	Phase Focus	Key Actions
Q1 (Jan–Mar)	Rest → early spike	Feeding paused; monthly plain-water flush; monitor spike emergence; hold repotting until plants finish bloom
Q2 (Apr–Jun)	Active growth	"Weakly, weekly" feeding resumes (§4.5); primary repotting window (§4.4); quarantine applies to all new intake (§5.3)
Q3 (Jul–Sep)	Growth + heat management	Verify no AC discharge on plants (§4.2); confirm humidity 50–70%; quarterly flush; pest inspection frequency unchanged
Q4 (Oct–Dec)	Spike initiation	Expose to night temperature drop (§6.2); transition to low-nitrogen feed; stake new spikes; protect from rare cold snaps

Two calendar rules prevent recurring errors. First, repotting is confined to Q2 and to post-bloom plants — off-calendar repotting requires a documented reason, since it is the

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leading self-inflicted cause of bloom loss (§4.4). Second, the Q4 temperature exposure is the one care step that depends on **restraint**: the plant should be left undisturbed in position through the initiation window, and the common failure mode is relocating the plant indoors too early in autumn and erasing the signal. With the annual rhythm defined, Section 7 consolidates every routine in this guide into a single checklist with explicit ownership and escalation paths.

7. Recommendations & Care Checklist

7.1 Consolidated Action Checklist

This checklist consolidates every recurring routine defined in Sections 4 through 6 into a single operational reference. It is designed for three uses: direct execution by retail customers, delegation by estate clients to household staff, and scheduling verification by property managers. Each line names the Owner — the accountable individual — and the verification standard drawn from the governing protocol. **Assignment rule**: a care routine without a named Owner and a recorded completion date is considered not performed; for collections larger than ten plants, completion should be logged against this table.

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Table 6: Consolidated care checklist with cadence and ownership

Cadence	Action	Owner	Verification / Reference
Every watering	Check medium dryness before watering; soak and drain fully	Named care Owner	Finger test / pot weight (§4.3)
Weekly (growing season)	Feed 20-20-20 at ¼–½ strength ("weakly, weekly")	Named care Owner	§4.5 schedule; pause in bloom/rest
Weekly	Foliage glance for pests and new growth	Named care Owner	§5.2 matrix
Monthly	Full inspection: leaf color both surfaces, leaf axils, root color, media smell	Named care Owner	§5.3 cadence; log findings
Monthly	Plain-water flush to prevent salt buildup (growing season)	Named care Owner	§4.5
Quarterly	Light/placement reassessment; airflow verification	Named care Owner	§4.1, §4.2
Annually (Q2, post-bloom)	Repot if media decomposed or plant outgrown	Named care Owner / Orchidee service	§4.4 procedure
Intake (any new plant)	3-week quarantine from collection	Named care Owner	§5.3
Q4 (Oct–Dec)	Night-drop exposure for spike initiation; stake new spikes	Named care Owner	§6.2
Per bloom cycle	Record purchase, spike, bloom, and drop dates	Named care Owner	Bloom record (§6.1)

7.2 When to Consult a Specialist

Self-management has defined limits, and escalation to Orchidee – Palm Beach Shop is the correct action — not a last resort — in five situations: (1) any fault unresolved after one full correction cycle under the §5.2 matrix; (2) two or more concurrent symptoms on a single plant; (3) suspected root rot affecting more than half the root mass; (4) collections exceeding approximately 50 plants, where the protocol scope limits of §2.1 apply; and (5) before any installation or staging project, to confirm variety-to-room matching against Appendix A. Escalation should include photographs taken in inspection lighting and the bloom record where available, both of which shorten diagnosis materially.

The shop supports consultations by phone at +1 (561) 866-8787, through orchidspalmbeach.com, and in person at the Palm Beach location; repotting and spike-stage selection services are available for clients who prefer to delegate the §4.4 and Q4 procedures entirely. Used together — this checklist for routine care, and the shop for exceptions — the framework in this guide is sufficient to sustain the outcomes defined in the Executive Summary: extended bloom duration, reliable annual reblooming, and reduced

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replacement cost.

Appendix A — Quick-Reference Care Chart by Variety

Table 7: Indoor residential care standards by variety (South Florida conditions)

Variety	Light	Watering Interval	Temperature	Media	Bloom Duration
Phalaenopsis	Low–medium indirect; east window ideal	Every 7–10 days; soak and drain	65–80°F day / ≥60°F night	Coarse bark mix	8–12 weeks
Cattleya	Bright, filtered; west with sheers	Let dry fully between waterings	65–80°F day / 60–65°F night	Chunky bark, rapid drain	2–4 weeks
Dendrobium	Bright, indirect	Slightly drier; reduce in winter	65–80°F day / 60°F night	Coarse bark mix	4–6 weeks
Vanda	Very bright; covered lanai	Frequent; bare roots dry fast	≥65°F consistently	Bare-root slatted basket	4–8 weeks
Oncidium	Medium–bright indirect	Even moisture; dry slightly	65–80°F day / 60–65°F night	Fine–medium bark	4–6 weeks

All values are indoor residential standards for South Florida conditions; they reconcile with the placement criteria of §4.1–4.2 and the media standards of §4.4. Where a purchased plant's tag conflicts with this chart, clients should follow the chart and confirm with the shop, as tags frequently generalize across hybrid lines.

Appendix B — Sources and Further Reading

This guide's protocols were adapted from the following authorities. Web sources were retrieved and verified on **October 30, 2026**.

1. American Orchid Society — *Phalaenopsis Culture Sheet* (light ranges and cultural standards): aos.org/orchid-care/care-sheets/phalaenopsis-culture-sheet
2. Smithsonian Gardens — *Care of Phalaenopsis* (watering practice and ice-cube caution): gardens.si.edu/collections/plants/orchids/orchid-care-sheets/phalaenopsis
3. Orchidee – Palm Beach Shop — *FAQ and Orchid Care resources* (watering intervals, light categories, client services): orchidspalmbeach.com/faq
4. Orchidee – Palm Beach Shop — *Orchid Care article archive* (placement guidance): orchidspalmbeach.com/category/orchid-care

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