

Flower shops can donate unsold blooms to nursing homes by contacting a home's activities or volunteer coordinator and arranging a delivery that fits its needs. Ask about flower policies first, then send clean, fresh arrangements that staff can easily place or share.

Find a home and make contact

Start with nursing homes near the shop, since a short journey helps flowers arrive in good condition. Call the main number and ask who coordinates activities, volunteers or donations. That person can explain what the home accepts and who should receive a delivery.

Describe what you can offer and how often. A shop with a few spare stems on Fridays might provide small posies, while one with a larger surplus could supply flowers for a shared activity. Avoid promising a regular delivery unless you can reliably make it.

Ask what would be most useful before preparing anything. The home may prefer flowers for a common room rather than individual bedrooms, or it may welcome stems for a supervised arranging session. A little planning keeps a kind gesture from becoming extra work for staff.

Check the home's requirements

Care settings can have rules about flowers, containers and where arrangements may be placed. Residents may also have allergies or sensitivities. Let staff decide what is suitable rather than assuming every bloom can go anywhere in the building.

Before the first delivery, agree on these details:

- Which flowers or scents the home prefers to avoid.
- How many arrangements or loose stems it can use.
- Which containers are safe and practical for its spaces.
- Where and when to deliver, and whom to contact.
- Who will change the water and remove flowers as they fade.

If the home cannot accept flowers at a particular time, ask if another date would work. Its staff may be managing changing care needs, and a flexible plan is easier to maintain.

Prepare blooms for an easy delivery

Choose flowers that are still fresh enough to be enjoyed for several days. Remove damaged petals and leaves that would sit below the waterline, then trim the stems and place them in clean water. This gives the home less tidying to do on arrival.

Keep arrangements modest in size so they can fit on a table without crowding it. Use stable containers approved by the home, and avoid sharp wire or loose decorative pieces. If you are sending loose stems, ask staff how they would like them packed and transported.

Deliver at the agreed time and tell the contact what you have brought. After the first donation, ask what worked and what did not. The answer can help you adjust the size, timing or type of future deliveries.

Questions about donating flowers

Can a shop donate flowers that are beginning to fade?

It is better to choose blooms with useful life left. Flowers that are already wilting can create cleanup work and may not give residents much time to enjoy them.

Can residents arrange the flowers themselves?

Possibly. Ask the activities coordinator first, so staff can decide if an arranging session suits residents and what supplies or assistance would be needed.

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