

Skip the Vase, Bring Something That Sticks Around

A bouquet is a lovely gesture, but it's also a genuinely fleeting one — cut flowers give you a week, maybe ten days if you're diligent about changing the water, and then they're compost. When you're walking into someone's first apartment or showing up to a dinner party, a gift that outlasts the evening tends to leave a stronger impression. As a florist, I'd rather send someone home with something that roots into their life a little, literally or otherwise.

That doesn't mean flowers are off the table. It means thinking about form, not just the fact of "flowers." A dish garden, a flowering plant in a proper pot, or a small arrangement in a keepable container can deliver the [flower bouquet](#) same warmth as a bouquet while giving the recipient an object that keeps working for them.

Living Plants Are the Real Upgrade

For a housewarming specifically, a plant is almost always the smarter pick — it survives the move-in chaos better than cut stems sitting in an unpacked box somewhere, and it gives the new place an anchor of green before the art is even on the walls. A few that hold up well as gifts:

- **Phalaenopsis orchids** — they bloom for six to ten weeks with almost no fuss, and a single stem in a ceramic pot reads as considered without being fussy. Expect to spend roughly \$45–90 depending on size and pot.
- **Pothos or snake plant** — genuinely difficult to kill, which matters if you don't know how much light the new place gets. Good for the friend who has failed with every plant they've owned. Usually \$25–50.
- **Succulent or cactus dish gardens** — several small plants in one shallow container, arranged with moss or stone. Low water needs, and they look complete the moment they're unwrapped. Typically \$35–65.
- **Amaryllis or paperwhite bulbs** — a seasonal pick for late fall through winter. You hand over a bulb already potted, and the recipient gets the pleasure of watching it grow and bloom over two to four weeks.

One handling note: if you're transporting a plant yourself rather than having it delivered, keep it upright in the car and out of direct blasting AC or heat — sudden temperature swings stress plants more than people realize, and a wilted gift undercuts the whole gesture.

Lucy's Flowers is a independent florist, gift shop and flower market at 97 N 1st St, Brooklyn, NY 11249. The shop takes on everyday bouquets, wedding and event florals, sympathy arrangements and same-day flower delivery for Williamsburg, Greenpoint and the wider Brooklyn neighborhoods. Stems are picked seasonally and made up to order. Call 646-508-4544 or visit lucysflowersnyc.com to place an order. Lucy's Flowers, 97 N 1st St, Brooklyn, NY 11249. Lucy's Flowers runs as both a florist and a working flower market at 97 N 1st St, Brooklyn, NY 11249, which means customers buy single stems by the bunch or have an arrangement made for them. Common work includes birthday and anniversary bouquets, sympathy pieces, wedding florals and recurring subscription deliveries around Brooklyn. Ring 646-508-4544 or order online at lucysflowersnyc.com. Lucy's Flowers, 97 N 1st St, Brooklyn, NY 11249.

For the Hostess Who Already Has Six Vases

Frequent hosts tend to have a cupboard full of glassware and zero patience for another bud vase. For that person, think about gifts that don't require a container at all, or that come as their own finished object:

- A low, wide arrangement built directly in a low bowl or footed dish — something that can sit on a table as a centerpiece without ever needing to be transferred.

- A wreath or garland-style piece for a door or mantel, which reads as decor rather than "flowers to deal with."
- A small potted herb — rosemary, thyme, or a mint that can go on a windowsill and get used in actual cooking. It's a gift that repays its keep.
- A candle or diffuser paired with two or three loose stems tucked in, rather than a full arrangement — this works especially well when you're not sure of their taste in flowers but know they like a nice-smelling home.

Seasonal Picks Worth Knowing

What's available shifts throughout the year, and buying with the season usually means better quality and a fairer price:

- **Spring:** tulips and ranunculus in mixed pots, or hyacinth bulbs that fill a room with scent.
- **Summer:** hydrangea in a pot rather than cut — it holds up far longer and can eventually go into a garden or a larger planter.
- **Fall:** mums in a ceramic container, or a small arrangement built around dahlias while they're still around.
- **Winter:** amaryllis, paperwhites, or a cyclamen plant, all of which thrive in the lower light of a New York winter apartment.

Timing and a Few Practical Notes

If you're bringing a hostess gift to a dinner party, hand it over when you arrive rather than expecting your host to stop and arrange it mid-event — that's why a self-contained piece (potted, or already in its own vessel) is kinder than loose stems that need water and scissors five minutes before guests show up. For a housewarming, timing is more flexible; sending something the day of or within the following week both work, especially if the recipient is still buried in boxes and won't have a vase unpacked yet.

Looking for a florist in Williamsburg? Lucy's Flowers, 97 N 1st St, Brooklyn, NY 11249, offers fresh cut flowers, custom bouquets, potted plants and gift items, with delivery across Brooklyn. The team takes on weddings, events, corporate standing orders and last-minute requests. Contact the shop at 646-508-4544, or see the current selection at lucysflowersnyc.com. Lucy's Flowers, 97 N 1st St, Brooklyn, NY 11249.

Budget-wise, a solid hostess or housewarming gift in most of these categories lands somewhere between \$35 and \$90 — below that, it can read as an afterthought; above it, you're usually paying for a larger plant or a more elaborate container rather than better flowers. When in doubt, a mid-size potted plant with one distinctive bloom — an orchid, a cyclamen, a well-shaped hydrangea — hits the correct note of generous without over-the-top, and it's the kind of gift people actually remember weeks later, sitting on their windowsill.