

A small flower arrangement paired with a handwritten welcome note can make a remote employee feel included from their first day. If flowers are not a good fit, a useful desk item or a choice of gifts can be just as thoughtful.

Start with a personal welcome

Working remotely can make the first day feel quiet. There may be no office tour, no shared lunch and no one stopping by a desk to say hello. A gift cannot replace those moments, but it can give a new colleague something tangible to connect with the team.

A modest arrangement of seasonal flowers brings color to a home workspace without asking the recipient to find room for something permanent. Choose a small vase arrangement that can sit on a table or shelf. Include a note signed by the team, with a few words about looking forward to working together.

Keep the message warm and simple. The new employee does not need to be told they are already part of a family. A sincere welcome is enough.

Choose something that fits their space

Home workspaces vary. One person may have a dedicated office, while another works at a kitchen table. A gift that is easy to move, use or put away is often more practical than a large decorative object.

Consider these options, depending on what you know about the recipient:

- A small flower arrangement with a welcome note.
- A notebook and a good pen for meeting notes or ideas.

- A mug or insulated cup for a favorite drink.
- A selection of tea or coffee, if their preferences are known.
- A choice of gifts, so they can pick something useful.

A gift chosen with care does not need to fill a box. It can simply make the first week a little more comfortable.

Make delivery considerate

Before arranging delivery, ask for permission to use a home address. Let the employee know what information is needed and who will have access to it. Do not assume they want to share their address with the whole team.

It is also worth checking for allergies, sensitivities and household needs before sending flowers or food. Some flowers can be harmful to pets, so ask about animals in the home and check the safety of any stems you choose. An alternative gift gives the employee an easy way to decline flowers without having to explain.

Try to arrange delivery around a time that suits them. A welcome message from a colleague can arrive even if the physical gift takes longer.

Questions about remote welcome gifts

How much should the team spend?

Follow the organization's gift policy and choose something within the agreed budget. A thoughtful note matters more than an elaborate package.

Should the gift arrive before the first day?

It can be a nice surprise, but it is not essential. Confirm a convenient delivery time rather than risking a missed parcel.

Can the team send a plant instead?

Yes, if the recipient enjoys plants and has a suitable space. Check pet safety and care needs first.

What if the employee prefers not to receive a gift?

Respect that choice. A personal welcome message and an invitation to meet the team are meaningful alternatives.

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