

Industry Standards, Code of Practice Guidelines

If you have not already achieved it, 'best practice' is a great way to improve your businesses operations and services. Best Practice Guidelines will ultimately increase the competitiveness and the morale of both customers and staff. You can achieve best practice by following IPA industry standards & code of practice or benchmarking your business against others in your industry.

Code of Practice provides a minimum standard of protection to consumers and businesses. Adhering to voluntary codes of practice will not only ensure you provide a higher standard of protection to your customers, but can also ensure that your business is competitive against others in your industry.

Research from the University of Technology Sydney [UTS Brochure](#) shows that indoor plants:

- Reduce indoor air pollution
- Reduce workplace illness
- Reduce sick-leave absences
- Reduce stress and negativity
- Do not create unhealthy mould problems
- Raise performance & productivity
- Improve job satisfaction
- Enhance business image with potential clients
- Improve school performance & patient wellbeing
- Contribute to meeting at least 75% of Indoor Environmental Quality (IEQ) criteria



Note: The above findings from UTS research can only be achieved if the plants installed are healthy & thriving.

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MAINTENANCE INDUSTRY STANDARDS:

1. Different plants have different water requirements which can change with location. Water plants according to the need, making sure there is no water damage to client's furnishings or premises. Beware of spills in walk throughways.
2. Ensure the correct levels of light e.g. make sure low light plants are not placed in high light conditions & visa versa to ensure longevity & that plants are thriving. More information on correct lighting can be found in the [Ultimate Guide for Green Wall Lighting](#).
3. Remove all dead or dying leaves.
4. Leaves to be cleaned and dust free. Remove any that are unsightly.
5. All plants are to be replaced when they have lost 50% of their original size or foliage from their original form (only after acclimatisation period is complete).
6. Plants on site will have minimal infestation of pests with no significant damage to the plant. All plants are to be replaced immediately if plant shows signs of severe infestation. No exceptions, plants are to be removed & replaced with healthy plants.
7. Plants are to be neat, tidy and healthy in appearance, not overgrown & shape maintained as per their original form.
8. Containers (supplied by Plantscapers) are to be clean, in good condition, stylish & regularly inspected for any rubbish that may have been placed in them since the last service. If container is damaged or looking old and outdated replace immediately.
9. If containers are supplied by your client ensure they are clean and free from any pests, food or drink before installation.
10. Topping (if used) should cover as per design intention & to the correct level. Topping should always be in a clean condition and if not replaced.
11. Growing media to be of sufficient quantity to support the plant & cover the root growth. Free from pests, mould & have no dreadful odour. IPA Industry standards advise growing media to hold an adequate supply of nutrients.
12. Plants should be fertilized during spring & summer & treated for pests with approved chemicals.

