

WHY DO WE REPOT ? By Steve C.

water sits on surface... it's not soaking in

soil is compacted... it is hard to the touch

roots coming out of bottom hole(s)

you want to improve or change the soil

a weak tree - nothing has helped to improve it so far

you want to move a tree from a nursery pot to a bonsai pot

you want a new bonsai pot

you want to reposition the tree in the same pot

you want to uncover or expose more nebari

you are entering a refinement phase and want to encourage
more refined growth

Repotting will:

will stress the tree and slow it down a bit

stimulate root growth

stimulate the tree growing fine roots and fine branches
because branches mirror roots(soil dependent)

improve O₂ in the soil (soil dependent)

improve drainage (soil dependent)

help encourage a solid root ball (soil dependent)

WHEN DO WE REPOT ?

TOO OFTEN IN GENERAL !!

so... I love to repot - its meditative for me

Ask yourself - what are we trying to accomplish?

are we trying to GROW the trunk or a branch?

are we trying to refine the branches or canopy?

If repotting from a nursery pot, trunk and branch size is ok
root work is less important to do now
get it in an ideal sized pot NOW

If repotting from a nursery pot & trunk size is NOT OK
root work is most important to do now
over-pot the tree to allow growth NOW

STEP BY STEP REPOTTING PROCESS !!!

SAME POT... Start Here

NEW POT... Start Here

- tip pot
- cut tie in wire
- cut screen wires
- remove soil 3 sides
- tip trunk
- remove tree
- protect tree

- choose front of pot
- cut screen
- wire in screen
- tie in wires in place
- extra wire in place
- aeration layer

- wash pot

- set the pot aside

- choose the front of the pot
- cut screen
- wire in screen
- tie in wires in place
- extra wire in place
- aeration layer

- tip the tree and pot
- cut tie in wires
- cut screen wires
- remove soil 3 sides
- tip the trunk
- remove the tree

- set the pot aside

- 1) tip tree and rake out bottom roots
cut roots flush
check for flat bottom
rake to flatten
flat is IMPORTANT this is bonsai - we like shallow pots
cut roots again if necessary
- 2) set tree flat
use an bent tipped forceps to rake out the top soil
expose more nebari
rake out top to the edges and SLOPE DOWN to edge
cut top roots
- 3) using the forceps, rake out side roots carefully
cut side roots
check for size in the new pot
rake again if necessary
cut more roots if necessary

allow room for fine roots to grow 360
protect roots - soak roots

Revisit front of pot... check if ok

Check position of tree in pot and angle of tree

Position extra wire correctly

A little soil

Mound soil

Set in tree

Settle tree into soil

Check for nebari above rim of pot

Check for correct position of tree from front

Check from side to see it is centered front to back

Light side chopstick - use special chopstick

Light chopstick

Check position all over again

Ok to wire in?... wire in:

wire 1 - wire 2

wire 2 - wire 3

wire 3 - wire 4

wire 4 - extra wire 5

Fill in soil

Light chopstick

Finer soil on top?

Vibrate pot from 4 sides

Tamp down

WATER THE HECK OUT OF IT:

wash out all the sediment dust

NOT AN EXCUSE FOR NOT SIFTING SOIL

until the water coming out is clear

super wetting all the soil particles

INOCULATE SOIL with microbes

Sphagnum moss/ground moss as a top dressing

Spray down top dressing

Water again

Tip pot to drain well

Mark pot for 4 weeks from date of repot to fertilize

After care:

set pot in sun... YES... THE SUN

set on warm moisture bed

protect pot from too cold

Done.... Cleanup

Start the next one... etc... etc... etc...