Water with intention.

Check first. Water well. Let it drain.

01 / FEEL BELOW THE SURFACE

Check the drying depth on your plant's sheet. For snake and ZZ plants, the whole mix should dry. A finger checks only the upper layer; use pot weight and a wooden skewer to help assess deeper moisture.

02 / DECIDE FROM THE WHOLE PICTURE

Damp mix and a heavy pot? Wait. Dry mix at the right depth and a lighter pot? It may be time. Drooping alone does not prove thirst: wet roots can also cause a plant to wilt.

03 / GIVE ROOTS A PROPER DRINK

For these soil-grown plants, pour slowly across the mix until water runs from the drainage holes. Let the pot finish draining, then empty the saucer or decorative outer pot.

04 / ADJUST AS CONDITIONS CHANGE

Warmth, stronger light and active growth can increase water use. Dim light and slower growth usually reduce it. Air-conditioning, pot size and mix also matter.

> A weekly reminder should say "check my plants", not "water every plant".

If dry mix repels water, water slowly in several passes or briefly soak the inner pot from below, then drain fully. Never leave it standing in water.