

To surprise a friend with housewarming flowers remotely, arrange a delivery to their new address and include a personal note. Choose a time when someone can receive the flowers, and pick a bouquet that suits their space and any pets in the home.

Get the details without giving it away

First, make sure you have the complete new address, including the apartment number and any delivery instructions. A mutual friend or family member may be able to confirm the details discreetly. If not, asking your friend to share their new address for your contacts is a reasonable way to check.

Find out when they are likely to be home, too. Moving days can be unpredictable, and a bouquet left outside while your friend is collecting another carload of boxes is not quite the entrance you had in mind.

Choose flowers for their new space

Think about what your friend likes rather than what looks most impressive in a photo. A small arrangement in their favourite colours can feel just as thoughtful as a large bouquet, and it is easier to place on a crowded counter.

A vase is useful if their kitchen things are still packed. If you send loose stems instead, they may need to find a container and trim the stems before putting them in water. That is a small task, but perhaps not one they need on moving day.

- Choose a compact arrangement for a small flat or a busy room.
- Ask for gentle scent if your friend is sensitive to strong fragrances.

- Check flower and foliage safety if pets share the home.
- Consider a vase arrangement if unpacking is still underway.

Lilies are especially dangerous to cats, so leave them out of a gift for a home with cats. If you are unsure about any flower or greenery, check with a veterinarian or a reliable animal poison resource before ordering.

Plan the delivery

Give the florist the full address, a contact number if appropriate, and any useful access details. Ask how the recipient will be contacted and what happens if nobody answers. Some buildings have reception desks or secure entrances that can complicate a surprise.

A delivery a few days after the move can be easier than one on the day itself. Your friend may have a clearer patch of table by then, even if the rest of the room is still devoted to boxes.

Write a note that sounds like you

A short message is plenty. Mention their new home, wish them a happy start there, or refer to something you know they are looking forward to. You could write, “A little colour for your new place. I cannot wait to see it.”

Sign your name clearly. Mystery flowers can be fun for about five minutes, followed by a round of messages asking who sent them.

Keep the surprise practical

If the exact delivery time is uncertain, give your friend a gentle hint to expect something without saying what it is. You can also ask a trusted person nearby to help make sure someone is home.

After the flowers arrive, a quick message gives you a chance to celebrate with your friend from afar. The surprise does not need to be elaborate to make their new place feel a little more like home.

A related guide: remote gift ideas