Finger Lime (into a pot)

- **A pot that is one size larger** than the current one (roughly 5–10 cm wider), featuring plenty of **drainage holes**.
- **Premium Citrus & Fruit Potting Mix** (or a chunkier mix like a 50/50 blend of premium mix and cactus mix for superior drainage).
- **Seaweed solution** (like Seasol) to reduce transplant shock.
- **Sugarcane or straw mulch**.

📋 Step-by-Step Repotting Instructions

1. Prepare the new container

Ensure your new pot is clean. If it has fewer than 3–4 large drainage holes, drill a few more. Add enough fresh, high-quality citrus potting mix to the bottom of the pot so that when you sit the plant inside, the base of its trunk will sit about 2–3 cm below the pot's rim. Do not fill it up completely.

2. Remove the tree and wash away the old sand

Water the finger lime in its current pot first to make removal easier. Gently slide the plant out of its pot, supporting the main stem. Because it has been sitting in compacted sand, **you need to gently wash or massage away the old sand** from the outer edges of the root ball so the roots can actually contact the fresh potting mix. Inspect the roots: if you see any slimy, black, or completely dead roots from poor drainage, snip them off.

3. Position the tree

Place your finger lime dead-centre in the new pot. **Crucial rule:** Ensure the "root crown" (where the roots meet the trunk) is level with the top of the new soil line. Burying the trunk too deep causes collar rot and can kill the tree.

Fill in the sides of the pot with your fresh citrus mix. Use your fingers to firmly gently press the soil down as you go to eliminate air pockets, but don't pack it down like concrete. Leave a 2–3 cm gap at the very top of the pot so water doesn't spill over when you water it.

5. Hydrate with seaweed solution

Mix a bucket of **half-strength seaweed solution** (like Seasol) and slowly pour it over the soil until it runs freely out of the bottom drainage holes. This settles the new soil around the bare roots and delivers a hit of growth hormones to jumpstart root recovery.

6. Mulch and position for recovery

Spread a 2 cm layer of straw or sugarcane mulch across the top of the soil to lock in moisture and keep the root system cool. Keep the mulch a few centimetres away from the direct trunk to prevent rot. Move the pot into a **sheltered, part-shade position for 1 to 2 weeks** to let it recover from transplant shock before moving it back out into full sun

⚠️ **Post-Care Warning: Hold the Fertilizer!**

Do not add any standard citrus fertilizer or manure right now. Fresh, premium potting mix already contains slow-release nutrients. Adding more fertilizer to stressed, recovering roots will burn them and likely finish the plant off. Wait about 3 to 4 weeks—or until you see happy new green growth shooting out—before feeding it with a dedicated native or citrus fertilizer.