

# Detailed Tree Care Instructions

When a Christmas Tree is cut, typically over half of its weight is water. With proper care, you can maintain the quality of your displayed trees. Below are a number of tips relating to the care of displayed trees:

1. Displaying trees in water in a traditional reservoir type stand is the most effective way of maintaining their freshness and minimizing needle loss problems.
2. Make a fresh cut to remove a 1/4" to 1" thick disk of wood from the base of the trunk before putting the tree in the stand. Make the cut perpendicular to the stem axis. Don't cut the trunk at an angle, or into a v-shape, which makes it far more difficult to hold the tree in the stand and also reduces the amount of water available to the tree.
3. Once home, place the tree in water as soon as possible. Most species can go 6-8 hours after cutting the trunk and still take up water. Don't bruise the cut surface or get it dirty.
4. If needed, trees can be temporarily stored for several days in a cool location. Place the freshly cut trunk in a bucket that is kept full of water.
5. To display the trees indoors, use a stand with an adequate water holding capacity for the tree. **As a general rule, stands should provide 1 quart of water per inch of stem diameter.** Devices are available that help maintain a constant water level in the stand.
6. Use a stand that fits your tree. Avoid whittling the sides of the trunk down to fit a stand. The outer layers of wood are the most efficient in taking up water and should not be removed.
7. Keep displayed trees away from sources of heat (fireplaces, heaters, heat vents, direct sunlight). Lowering the room temperature will slow the drying process, resulting in less water consumption each day.
8. The temperature of the water used to fill the stand is not important and does not affect water uptake.
9. Check the stand daily to make sure that the level of water does not go below the base of the tree. **With many stands, there can still be water in the stand even though the base of the tree is no longer submerged in water.**
10. Drilling a hole in the base of the trunk does not improve water uptake.
11. Use of lights that produce low heat, such as miniature lights, will reduce drying of the tree.
12. Always inspect light sets prior to placing them on the tree. If worn, replace with a new set.
13. Do not overload electrical circuits.
14. Always turn off the lights when leaving the house or when going to bed.
15. Monitor the tree for freshness. After Christmas or if the tree is dry, remove it from the house.
16. Find a recycling program near you.
17. Never burn any part of a Christmas Tree in a wood stove or fireplace.



*We want everyone to have a safe and enjoyable holiday season. If you decorate your home with either farm-grown natural products such as trees and wreaths, or plastic decorations, taking some simple steps can help ensure a safe season in your home. This brochure was put together with the farmers and retailers of fresh Christmas Trees and your local public safety officials.*

More information on farm-grown Christmas Trees can be found at [www.realchristmastrees.org](http://www.realchristmastrees.org)

# Christmas Trees & Holiday Safety

*Brought to you by  
Your Local Fire Department and  
The National Christmas Tree Association*

# Christmas Tree Myths

## MYTH 1:

*Christmas Trees can burst into flames in seconds.*

A tree properly displayed in water contains moisture that makes it very difficult to ignite.

Of all the real Christmas Trees displayed each year, only 0.00093% on average are ignited in home fires. It's EXTREMELY rare.

*Decorated trees in water-holding stands absorb water.*



**MYTH 2:** *Artificial trees are safer because they are fireproof.*

Plastic trees can burn if exposed to high heat and many of them are not tested for fire retardant qualities. If the statement 'fire retardant' does not reference a specific standard, it has little meaning.

*Artificial tree in burn test conducted by Farmington Hills, Mich., Fire Department.*

# About Tree Stands

There are many good types and brands of stands available. The National Christmas Tree Association does not endorse or recommend any type or brand over another. They do recommend that a stand hold at least 1 gallon of water, AFTER the trunk has been inserted. This is critical, since the rate of water absorption can vary from day to day. Some days the tree will absorb a small amount of water and some days it will absorb a lot, very quickly. For this reason, it is critical that the stand hold an adequate amount of water. The style of stand is up to individual preference. Some prefer the center pin style, while others prefer the bolt style stands. For those with pets that may try drinking the tree water, some stands have an enclosed style.

## Other Tips

- Always select a tree in good condition. Branches and needles should be pliable, not brittle.
- If not setting up within 6 - 8 hours after a fresh cut is made from the trunk, keep the tree baled / netted and standing in a bucket of water out of sun and wind if possible.
- Make a fresh cut from the trunk if it has been exposed to air for more than about 6 - 8 hours.
- Add water to the stand EVERY day, even if it hasn't absorbed much since the day before.
- Don't use lights that are frayed or worn as they can produce sparks or overheat.
- Most modern lights in good condition produce very little heat and won't hurt the tree.
- Monitor the foliage of the tree for dryness throughout the time it is displayed.



# How to care for your farm-grown fresh Christmas Tree

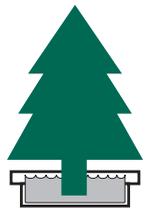
1



Cut 1/4 inch off trunk.

2

Keep trunk in water at all times.



3



Keep away from heat sources.

4



Recycle after holidays.