

Cut Christmas Trees



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Cut Christmas trees add beauty and fragrance to the holidays, but they require special care. Start by choosing a good tree. Select a tree with supple needles that bend but don't break when brushed with your fingers. While some loose needles are normal, avoid trees that lose excessive needles when bounced or shaken.

Trees look smaller on the lot than in the home. Measure how much width you have available and the height of your ceiling before you go to select your tree. Choose a tree at least one foot shorter than the ceiling, and make sure there will be room to move around the tree to decorate it. Trees always look much bigger in the home than they do on the tree lot.

If necessary, store the tree outdoors where it is sheltered from wind and sun. Cut one inch of trunk off the base and stand the tree in a bucket of water. Check the water level frequently as it will use several quarts per day. If the base of the tree is out of water for six hours, the sap will congeal and another inch must be cut off the base of the trunk to allow water absorption.



Fraser Fir



Scotch Pine

Once the tree is in the house, provide a cool location and avoid all heat sources such as heating vents, space heaters and fireplaces. Place the tree in a tree stand that holds at least one gallon of water. Check the water level several times a day, especially in the first week, as the tree will absorb a lot of water, sometimes more than a quart per hour. Remember that if the water level drops below the trunk base the tree may have to be taken down for a fresh trunk cut. Water additives do not help the tree and may cause the water to spoil or damage the tree stand. A well-watered tree is the best protection against fire, but it is best to turn Christmas tree lights off when away from home or in bed.

Occasionally, Christmas trees will produce new growth at the branch tips and may appear to be growing for several weeks. This is always temporary, and growth will stop once the tree's energy reserves are used up. Cut trees will not produce roots.

Dispose of the tree by chipping it for mulch, setting it out to provide shelter for wildlife, or weighted at the bottom of a pond as a fish shelter.

Recommended trees:

Abies fraseri
Abies balsamea
Abies intermedia

Fraser Fir
Balsam Fir
Canaan Fir

Pseudotsuga menziesii
Pinus sylvestris
Picea glauca

Douglasfir
Scotch Pine
Blue Spruce