

Community Forestry Assistant



Northwest
Management, Inc.

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Tips for Enjoying Your Christmas Tree

Follow these tips to keep your Christmas tree green and fragrant throughout the holidays:



- (1) Display trees in a traditional water reservoir to maintain freshness and minimize needle loss—when Christmas trees are cut, over half their weight is water!
- (2) Make a fresh cut to remove 1/2 inch-1 inch thick disk of wood from the base of the trunk before putting the tree in the stand, making the cut perpendicular to the stem axis. This reopens the stem so it can take up water.
- (3) Once home, place the tree in water as soon as possible, making sure the water does not recede below the fresh cut. This will ensure the stem does not reseal, causing the tree to dry out significantly.
- (4) To display trees indoors, use a stand with adequate water holding capacity—generally 1 quart of water per inch of stem diameter. Maintain constant supply of water in stand.
- (5) If you do not plan to display tree immediately, store in a cool location away from wind or sunshine and keep in a bucket full of water.
- (6) Keep displayed trees away from all sources of heat (fireplaces, heaters, heat vents, direct sunlight).
- (7) Be sure to keep an ample amount of water in the tree stand—for many devices, there can be water in the stand even though the base of the tree is no longer submerged in water.
- (8) Don't add anything to the tree's water. Research has shown that tap water is sufficient for the tree's needs and will not lead to drying or needle loss that additives may cause.
- (9) Inspect all lights before decorating your tree – if worn, replace with a new set. Do not overload electrical circuits.
- (10) Always turn off tree lights before leaving the house, and at night before going to bed.
- (11) Take down your tree when it has begun to dry out to reduce risk of fire. With proper care, many trees can last up to 5 weeks.
- (12) Recycle your tree after Christmas. Many communities will pick up Christmas trees—go to http://www.christmastree.org/recycle_program.cfm to find a recycling program near you.

Green tip: Many nurseries also offer live, potted Christmas trees that can be planted outdoors following the holidays. The two most important factors for successfully growing a live, potted tree are to not allow the rootball to dry out and avoid keeping the tree indoors for too long. Seven days indoors is the maximum amount of time recommended. If the ground is frozen, it is also important to dig the planting hole in advance.



Provided by the National Christmas Tree Association, the Idaho State Department of Agriculture, and **Idaho Preferred**® Christmas Trees.