



### Christmas Tree Care

Congratulations! You've found the perfect Christmas tree. Now what do you do? While some people fret over choosing the best Christmas tree for their home, others struggle with keeping their tree fresh. Whether it's a White pine or a Douglas fir, all fresh-cut Christmas trees require the same thing: patience and persistence. Here's how you can help your Christmas tree survive the holiday season!

#### Trim the Trunk

Give your Christmas tree a fighting chance by trimming the trunk. Taking a 1/2-1 inch off the base can actually help your tree stay hydrated. When an evergreen goes without water for 4-6 hours, sap seeps out the trunk and forms an impenetrable barrier, cutting off all access to sustenance. Once a fresh cut has been made, immediately submerge its trunk in water to prevent sap from sealing over again.

#### Keep It Cool

Fresh-cut Christmas trees thrive in cool temperatures. You can acclimatize your Christmas tree to its warmer surroundings by storing it in an unheated garage or an enclosed porch for 2-5 days. And while your Christmas tree remains outside, you'll have plenty of time to decide where to display your decorated tree. For your safety (and the tree's longevity), you should avoid placing it near air vents, fireplaces, furnaces and other heat sources. If your tree dries out, it not only runs the risk of becoming dehydrated, but it could also become a huge fire hazard.

#### Habitual Hydration

Did you know that a Christmas tree can consume a gallon of water in just 24 hours? Yes, it's true. So, after you bring your tree inside, you'll want to provide it with plenty of water. In the first couple of days, you should supply one quart of water for every inch of the tree trunk's diameter. Check the water level frequently and replenish it daily. Once the Christmas tree is truly hydrated, its water intake will fluctuate, so be sure to monitor this throughout the holiday season.

#### Avoid Additives

A Christmas tree's best friend is water, and that's it. While there are many myths that Christmas trees fare better with the addition of a preservative, none of them prove true. No matter what you hear from friends or read online, the following folklores *will not* improve your Christmas tree's needle retention or restore its verdant vibrancy.

- Adding aspirin to your tree stand will not encourage your tree to absorb more nutrients. Instead, your Christmas tree could produce an unfortunate smell.
- Placing a copper penny at the bottom of the water basin will not sterilize the tree's water supply, making it cleaner for consumption.
- Combining water with 7-up and bleach will not help a fresh-cut tree grow new boughs. Instead, this dangerous concoction could severely dehydrate your tree.

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Information for reference only. Items and availability may vary.