



Christmas Trees

SafeTips from the Naval Safety Center

Quick and easy summaries to find out about something new you're doing or as a refresher for something you haven't done in a while. They're a great training tool to pass around at meetings, through e-mail, or post on bulletin boards.

- * When you buy your tree, have the vendor make a fresh cut an inch from the bottom; this will help the tree drink.
- * Make sure your tree stand holds plenty of water, and don't let it run out. Well-watered trees are not a problem. Dry, neglected trees are.
- * If you buy your tree early and keep it outside, store it away from wind and sun, and keep the bottom in a bucket of water.
- * Make sure your lights are safe. If you need outdoor lights, make sure the ones you buy are meant for outdoor use. Make sure your lights carry certification from a testing laboratory.
- * Don't use electric lights on a metal tree.
- * Discard any strings of lights that are frayed or broken. Christmas lights are cheap.
- * Unplug your Christmas tree before you leave or go to bed.
- * Don't buy a tree that is dry and dropping needles. To check for freshness, loosely grip the end of a branch and pull your hand over it. Only a few needles should fall off.
- * If your tree seems wobbly, center it in the stand more securely and redo the bolts or screws. If your tree stand is unstable, buy a larger, stronger one.
- * If you buy an artificial tree, make sure it is fire-retardant.
- * Keep your tree at least three feet from furnaces, radiators and fireplaces.
- * Try to position it near an outlet so that cords are not running long distances. Do not place the tree where it may block exits.
- * When Christmas is over or when the tree starts to drop needles, dispose of it.
- * Don't leave it in your house or put it in your garage.
- * Keep a close eye on small children and pets when they are around the tree; many small decorations and ornaments are sharp, breakable and can be swallowed.

www.public.navy.mil/comnavsafecen/pages/media/index-safetips.aspx



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