

HOW TO CARE FOR YOUR CHRISTMAS GREENERY

Nothing gets you in the Christmas spirit like coming home from a long day of work to a house that is filled with the scent of evergreen foliage. Many people today use artificial Christmas trees, but it's never quite the same. We do carry quality artificial trees, but to get into the true spirit of Christmas, real trees are the way to go. We have been in the Christmas tree business for quite some time now, and only carry the best varieties available. The top of the line cut Christmas tree is the Noble Fir and the second choice is the Douglas Fir.

Noble Firs cost a little more than the Douglas Firs, but they are worth the extra money. They have a superior shape and size, but most importantly they hold their needles longer than any other cut tree. It is not unusual for a Noble Fir purchased after Thanksgiving to hold its needles until well into February if properly maintained.

In addition to cut Christmas trees, we carry living Christmas trees that can be planted in your landscape, fresh wreaths in all sizes, and fresh garland to decorate your home for the holidays. A few simple steps can guarantee that your fresh greenery stays fresh throughout the holiday season. Picking the right Christmas tree is mostly left to personal preference. Size and shape is up to you, but freshness is a must. Our trees are cut the day before they are shipped and are watered several times a day, so you know they are the freshest in town. There are a couple of methods of testing the freshness of your tree of choice. Place a needle between your thumb and forefinger and bend it; if it is fresh, it will bend and not break, have a strong fragrance, and a good color. You can also lift the tree a few inches off the ground and drop it on the stump. A fresh tree will not have an abundance of green needles fall off the tree.

A fresh cut before standing the tree is extremely important! Be sure that there is 1/2" removed off the bottom of the stump. This will allow it to better take up water and to last longer. We cut our trees immediately before loading them on top of your vehicle. If you are not going to place your tree directly into the water when you get home be sure to cut it when you are ready.

The Christmas tree stand is also an important asset. The common and old fashioned stands are too small to give balance and don't provide adequate water for the tree to use. Not to mention the difficulty in getting them to stand straight. We use a drilling machine to perfectly center your tree. Once drilled and mounted the tree is aligned every time. Our stands provide a wide base for excellent balance and a large, sealed basin to retain water. They are easily adjustable and last for years. If you have doubts, come look at them; they really are the best! We will even reinstall the stand every year if you bring it in with you. If you purchase or have one of our stands, we will place the stand on the tree and ensure the tree is straight before you leave the store. When you get the tree home, immediately fill the basin of the stand with water.

For ensured freshness, we recommend the addition of **Keeps-It Green**, a Christmas tree preservative, every time you add water. **Keeps-It Green** will keep the tree fresher, which also makes it more fire resistant. Make sure the tree is away from heater vents and direct sunlight, which will quickly dry out the tree. Periodically check the water level to prevent the tree from drying out. If necessary, add more water and **Keeps-It Green**.

Fresh wreaths and garland should also be kept away from heater vents and direct sunlight. The way to keep them fresh and green is to spray them with an anti-transpirant. We carry a couple of brands, but recommend using **Wilt Prof**. It is organic and non-hazardous; so don't worry if you have pets. When you bring the greenery home, put it outside in a shady location, and completely spray it with

Wilt Pruf. Allow it to dry before bringing the greenery inside. This will help prevent the loss of moisture from your greenery and keep it looking fresh longer. You can also use **Wilt Pruf** on your Christmas tree! Living Christmas trees are a great way to get in the spirit of Christmas, while at the same time doing your part to improve the environment. You can either decorate the tree and leave it outside until it is time to bring it indoors or keep it indoors in a sunny location. It will have to be watered periodically, so make sure you have a tray underneath for excess runoff if kept indoors. After Christmas, make it a family tradition to go outside and plant the tree together and watch it grow for years to come. Some options for living Christmas trees include Dwarf Alberta Spruce, Austrian Pine, Afghan Pine, Bosnian Pine, Blue Spruce, and many others. It is perfectly safe to plant these trees in the winter. If you have questions about which tree to purchase based upon its permanent location, just ask one of our professional staff members for advice.

Now that you've got the greenery covered, the last things to think about are the accessories. We carry a large selection of ornaments, tree skirts to cover the stand, and even extra-large tree disposal bags. We can discreetly place the disposal bag around the base of the tree before installing the stand. This means you can simply untie the disposal bag and pull it up and over the tree after Christmas. Then, take it outside, remove the stand, and dispose of the tree. This leaves a very minimal mess to clean up. Whatever your Christmas decoration needs may be, Little Red Riding Hood Nursery provides you with the best materials in town.

If you have any question please call, write or drop by:

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