

# Care Guidelines for Cut Christmas Trees

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## Before display

- Store your tree in a cool place, such as an unheated garage or porch.
- If the tree has been bailed (wrapped with twine), keep it that way. It won't hurt it, and it will make it much easier to manage when you are ready to bring it in.

## Setting up for display

**Set up your tree a day or so before you plan to decorate it.**

- First, get your stand ready. You will need a stand that holds at least a gallon of water or more.
- Make a fresh cut on the trunk of the tree about a half inch above the old one.
- Bring the tree inside, place it in the stand, and adjust it so that it is straight.
- Fill the stand with water.
- If the tree was bailed, cut the twine and let it unfurl in all its glory. Be patient, the tree will need about a day for its branches to resume their normal positions.

## Caring for your tree

- Keep the tree watered. Your tree will absorb *a gallon or more* of water in the first 24 hours after being set up, so keep a close eye on it during this time. A well-watered tree will drop far fewer needles and smell much more fragrant.
- If the tree goes without water for more than six hours, a new seal of dried sap will form on the cut. If this happens, you will have to make a fresh cut on the trunk before adding more water if you want to keep reaping the benefits of a well-watered tree.
- Keep sources of heat like space heaters and candles away from the tree. Check your lights for
  - frayed wires
  - cracked insulation
  - empty sockets
  - and broken bulbsbefore placing them on the tree to avoid the risk of fire. Consider using LED lights, which, in addition to being insanely more efficient than incandescents, are also less likely to cause a fire.
- Enjoy the splendor of your real Christmas trees, brag to your friends about [the advantages](#) of owning a real tree, and bask in the wholesomeness of the Christmas tradition.