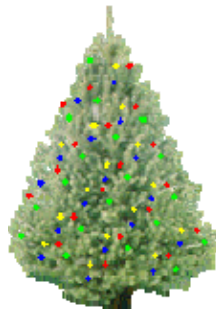


Home Holiday Safety Tips



Natural Christmas Trees

When buying a natural Christmas tree, the most important precaution is freshness. The needles should be green and hard to pull back from the branches, and the needles should not break if the tree has been freshly cut. If many needles fall off when the tree trunk is bounced on the ground, the tree is probably dried out and could be a fire hazard. To keep your tree fresh longer, cut off two inches off the trunk and place it in a sturdy water holding stand with wide spread legs. Do not place the tree close to a heat source such as a fireplace or heat vent as the heat will cause the tree to dry out faster, causing it to be more susceptible to catch fire. Whenever you leave your home, be sure to turn off all Christmas tree lights which could cause a fire. Keep the tree stand filled with water at all times. The tree should be removed when many of the needles start to fall off onto the floor as this indicates that the tree is drying out. Never burn or dispose of natural trees in a fireplace.



Artificial Trees

Always look for the "UL" label when buying an artificial tree. This label means that the tree has been tested for safety by Underwriters Laboratories. It does not mean that the tree will not burn, but only that it will not catch fire easily. Therefore, even artificial trees should be kept away from heat sources such as fireplaces or heat vents. Never use electric lights on metal trees like the old silver trees.

Plastic trees should be made of fire resistant material and also must have the UL label. Since artificial trees can also catch fire, it is important to turn off all Christmas lights whenever you leave your home.

