



SAFETY ADVISORY

CARING FOR CUT CHRISTMAS TREES

Clarington: Remember, a Christmas tree is a living thing. Look after it carefully as you would a cut flower.

Once you have selected your Christmas tree, follow these suggestions to keep it fresh and safe:

1. If you buy a tree several days before you plan to set it up, store the tree outdoors or on a cool porch or patio until you are ready to decorate it. An area that provides protection from the wind and sun will help the tree retain its moisture.
2. If you plan to store the tree for several days, make a straight cut across the butt end of the tree about one inch from the end. This opens the tree stem so it can take up water. Store the tree upright and place the butt end in a container of water.
3. When you bring the tree into the house for decorating, make another fresh cut across the trunk about an inch from the original cut. Use a tree stand that holds plenty of water.
4. Trees are thirsty. They may drink up to four litres of water per day, so be sure to check daily and supply fresh water as needed. A stand which holds at least four litres of water is recommended. If you allow the water level to drop below the bottom of the tree, a seal will form just as it does on a cut flower and a new cut will be necessary.
5. Place your tree away from fireplaces, radiators, television sets and other sources of heat. Turn off the tree lights when you leave and before you retire at night.
6. Avoid the use of combustible decorations. Check all electric lights and connections. Lights with worn or frayed cords should be discarded and replaced with new lights. The new LED lights burn cooler and save energy too!
7. **NEVER** use lighted candles on a Christmas tree.



Following these simple care and precaution measures should ensure an attractive tree that stays fresh indoors for two to three weeks.

**For additional information, please contact
Clarington Emergency and Fire Services at 905-623-5126.**