

1. If you aren't setting up the tree immediately, store it outdoors. Keep it in a protected area, away from the wind and sun, to help the tree retain its moisture (an unheated garage is ideal, particularly to keep the tree free of snow). If you plan to store it outside for several days, make a straight cut across the butt end of the tree about one inch from the end, place the butt end in a container of water, and store the tree upright.
2. When you bring the tree into the house for decorating, make another fresh cut across the trunk, about an inch from the original cut.
3. Trees can drink up to four litres of water per day, so be sure to use a large stand that can hold that much water. Check the water level daily and supply fresh water as needed. Don't allow the water level to drop below the bottom of the tree, as a seal will form on the bottom and the tree will stop absorbing water (you'll have to make a new cut).
4. Use only fresh water. Don't add sugar, molasses, bleach, honey, floral preservatives, or other substances to the tree's water. Experts agree that these do nothing to maintain the freshness of the tree.
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. Under no circumstances should you use lighted candles on a Christmas tree.
6. A well-maintained tree should normally remain fresh at least three to four weeks before drying to an unacceptable level. Test the dryness of the tree by running your fingers across the needles. If they break easily or fall off in your hand, the tree is dry and should be discarded.

Comments
