



# Holiday Tree

## Holiday Tree Fire Safety

A holiday tree can remain relatively fire resistant if you follow these simple steps:



- 1. Recut the trunk** at least one inch above the old cut as soon as you get it home. This allows it to continue to pull moisture into its foliage.
- 2. Keep the trunk in water** immediately after it is recut. Moisture is the key to keeping the tree fresh and thereby enhancing its fire resistance. If the tree will be kept outside for a few days, stand it in a bucket of water until you are ready to bring it indoors.
- 3. Clean the stand.** Before placing the tree in a sturdy stand (appropriate for the size of tree), rinse the stand with a capful of bleach mixed in water. This reduces the growth of organisms.
- 4. Locate the tree away from sources of heat.** Avoid placing the tree near a heater outlet, wood stove or fireplace. Put it in the coolest location possible. Never leave a lighted tree unattended. Caution: be careful not to block a door with the tree or rearranged furniture.
- 5. Check the water level in the stand daily.** Never let the water level go below the bottom of the trunk. Commercial floral preservatives can also be added to the water to help keep the tree fresh.
- 6. Carefully control lights on the tree.** Miniature holiday lights should be used on trees. Standard-size holiday tree lights generate heat, which accelerate the rate of drying. Do not leave lights turned on for prolonged periods or leave them unattended. Caution: make sure all electrical cords have no frayed or cracked wires or broken sockets before placing them on the tree. Do not attempt to repair a worn light set! Throw it away and purchase a new replacement.
- 7. Remove the tree immediately after the holidays.** Even a properly cared for cut tree will eventually die. Take it to a recycle center or leave for your refuse collector.

