

# How To Care For Your Christmas Tree

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With less than a week until the big day, it's important to make sure your Christmas tree will withstand the holiday chaos well into the new year. Here are great tips in keeping your tree fresh until the clock strikes midnight on New Year's Eve.

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## Make The Cut

Once you purchase your tree, saw an inch off the trunk before submerging in water. According to Washington State University's Spokane county extension, "This exposes fresh tissue that will readily absorb water."

## Water Often

According to WSU, it's crucial to keep water in the base. "Fill the stand with water and keep it filled for as long as the tree remains in the home. Some tree stands hold only a small amount of water, so be certain to fill these stands every day. Do not let the stand dry out or the base of the tree will seal over and stop absorbing water."

Some suggest using additives in water like 7-up, vodka and sugar for easier intake of water as well. However, WSU says additives and temperature do not affect length of freshness.

## Keep It Cool

It's always important to keep your tree from becoming a fire hazard. According to the National Christmas Tree Association, "keep displayed trees away from sources of heat (fireplaces, heaters, heat vents, direct sunlight). Lowering the room temperature will slow the drying process, resulting in less water consumption. Use of lights that produce low heat, such as miniature lights, will reduce drying of the tree."

With these steps, your tree is sure to be the center of attention during Christmas parties and Christmas morning.