



Christmas tree safety tips



A Christmas tree can brighten your home — just make sure it isn't a fire hazard.

Keeping live trees safe

- ◆ The fresher and more moist a tree, the safer it is.
- ◆ Select a tree with needles that do not pull easily from the branches or break when gently bent.
- ◆ Clean the tree stand with a mixture of one cup of water and a capful of bleach.
- ◆ Re-cut the trunk diagonally one or two inches above the old cut and immediately place in water.
- ◆ Always keep the water level in the tree stand above the cut line.
- ◆ Remove the tree as soon as possible after the holidays.
- ◆ Never burn a tree in a fireplace or wood stove.

Christmas tree safety

- ◆ Place the tree away from exits and heat sources.
- ◆ Never decorate a tree with burning candles.
- ◆ Check tree lights for damaged or loose connections. Discard damaged light sets.
- ◆ Replace burnt out bulbs immediately or other bulbs may overheat and become a fire hazard. Replacement bulbs should have the correct wattage/voltage.
- ◆ Avoid overloading electric outlets and inspect all extension cords before using.
- ◆ Switch the tree lights off at bedtime or when leaving the house.
- ◆ If a tree catches fire, do not try to move it. Use a fire extinguisher, if available, to put out the flames. If not, evacuate the house and call the fire department.

Keeping metallic trees safe

- ◆ Never use electric lights on metallic trees. Use spotlights to illuminate the trees from a safe distance.

For more information, please call (780) 427-8392 or visit www.gov.ab.ca/ma/fco.