



# Living Safely™

## 10 Great Christmas Tree Safety Tips

The fun of Christmas is upon us once again and the staff of Living Safely want to make it a safe, happy and healthy occasion. Here are ten great tips for a safe Christmas tree!

### Buying the Tree

**Tip #1:** If you're going for an artificial tree, make sure it's flame retardant and approved by the relevant safety authority such as UL in the US or CSA in Canada.

**Tip #2:** If you're opting for a traditional (real) tree, make sure it looks healthy and well-watered. Never buy a tree that looks dry or the needles are already falling off.

### Setting it up

**Tip #3:** Pick a suitable place for the tree. Ideally, the tree should be at least three feet away from any heat source such as active fireplaces, radiators, lit candles, heat vents or even lamps or house lights. Do not block exits to the room.

**Tip #4:** You'll want to have easy access to the tree stand so carefully trim low branches and cut at least two inches from the base of the trunk before placing the tree into its stand.

**Tip #5:** Mount the tree in the stand. You may wish to anchor the tree to a load-bearing wall to reduce the chances of tipping or falling.

### Lighting the Tree

**Tip #6:** Light strings should be UL or CSA approved. Carefully inspect all wiring before and during installation. If you see frayed cords or evidence of burning, toss the string away. Low voltage LED lights usually give off less heat than older, incandescent ones.

**Tip #7:** Never use lit candles on a tree. Test the smoke alarm in the room once a day and remind everyone how to use the closest fire extinguisher.

### Daily Safety

**Tip #8:** Water the (live) tree regularly, preferably twice a day. Do not let the tree dry out!

**Tip #9:** Never leave tree lights on overnight or when you leave the room for more than a few minutes.

### Disposal

**Tip #10:** Once needles start dropping, it's time to recycle (or toss) the tree. Remove it from your home; do not store it in your garage.

### About Living Safely™

We help people around the world lead safer, healthier and happier lives.

We accomplish these goals by providing knowledgeable health and safety advice, breaking medical news, useful health tips, pre-emergency information, preventative safety products as well as research and services including corporate seminars and public lectures dealing with executive and general travel, safe living and general health. This guide is one in a series of these initiatives.

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