



YOUR LOCAL GARDEN CENTRE

# GARDENING

## Caring for your Christmas Tree

With proper care, your cut tree should last at least four weeks or more!

Remove the bark around the base of the trunk to reopen the cut wound, take the tree out of its netting and leave in a bucket of water until you are ready to bring it in and decorate.

To get the best from your tree store it outside in an unheated shed, greenhouse or a sheltered spot for a few days before bringing it into your house.

Once you have brought it inside, place it in a position that's not too close to a radiator or fireplace and use a stand which has a container big enough to hold enough water to stop it drying out daily, Christmas Trees can be very thirsty!

Branches can be trimmed if the tree is too full or they look out of place, this will also help with the amount of water that the tree will consume. Once trimmed leave your tree for a few hours before decorating for it to take its natural shape. You can always keep the cut off branches to decorate a doorway or fireplace or make a wreath.

When decorating your tree remember Christmas Lights will dry it out and can cause needle loss. Make sure the lights are unravelled and working before you place them on your tree to avoid disturbing the needles too much. Never leave lights on overnight, your tree then has a chance to rehydrate.

Keep checking the water every day, by not watering your tree it will form a resin layer on the base stopping it from absorbing water, which will then lead to needle drop.

Some say an aspirin popped into the water can help with needle drop but be careful that the base is covered to avoid anything else being able to drink the water!

Once the Christmas festivities are over and it's time to remove your tree, avoid shaking it too much as there will be some needle drop, if possible wrap it in a sheet whilst removing.

Check with your local council to see if they are offering a Tree Recycling Service, or it can be chopped up and placed in your Garden Waste Bin to be recycled into compost.

