

# Simple tips for real Christmas tree care.

- ✦ **Temperature Control**—Keep trees away from heat sources (fireplaces, heaters, heat vents, direct sunlight). Lowering the room temperature will slow the drying process, resulting in less water consumption. The temperature of the water used to fill the stand is not important and does not affect water uptake.
- ✦ **Stand**—As a general rule, stands should provide 1 quart of water per inch of stem diameter.
- ✦ **Fresh Cut**—If it has been more than 12 hours since harvest, remove a 1/4-inch disk of wood from the base of the trunk before placing the tree in the stand. Don't cut the trunk at an angle or into a V-shape. It is more difficult for the stand to support the tree and for the tree to absorb water. Avoid whittling the sides of the trunk to fit a stand. The outer layers of wood are the most efficient at taking up water and should not be removed. Drilling a hole in the base of the trunk does not improve water uptake.
- ✦ **Water, Water**—Once home, place the tree in water as soon as possible. Don't bruise the cut surface of the trunk or get it dirty. Do not use additives in the water. Check the stand daily to make sure the water level does not go below the base of the tree.
- ✦ **Light Use**—Choose lights that produce low or no heat, such as miniature or LED lights, to reduce drying of the tree. Inspect light sets prior to using them. If worn, replace with a new set. Do not overload electrical circuits and always turn off tree lights when leaving the house or going to bed.

**Begin your holiday memories  
with a real tree!**

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## **Contact us at**

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# Go Green, Get Real!

**What you  
need to know  
to make  
an eco-friendly  
choice at  
Christmas.**



**WISCONSIN CHRISTMAS TREE  
PRODUCERS ASSOCIATION**

# Get Real! Make an eco-friendly choice.

Each season, there are news articles, web sites and commentators who debate whether it is better for the environment to use an artificial or a natural, farm grown Christmas tree. This can be confusing to the consumers who want to make an eco-friendly choice, but can't find a simple, straight forward, "apples-to-apples" comparison.

The table below illustrates that real trees are the best environmental choice.

	Real trees	Artificial trees
<b>Place of origin</b>	United States & Canada	85% from China
<b>Method of production</b>	Farming—planting takes place from January though May. Millions of trees growing in the U.S. support complex ecosystems. Tree farming is sustainable and renewable.	Factory—raw materials are sent to the factory, assembled into the final product, shipped to the U.S., and distributed to stores. The tree factories only consume natural resources and add to the production levels.
<b>Components</b>	Plant tissue, which is 100% biodegradable.	Plastics and metals, which are non-biodegradable.
<b>PVC and lead free?</b>	Yes	No—lead is used in the process of making PVC plastic.
<b>Carbon neutral?</b>	Yes—trees absorb carbon dioxide when growing. When decomposing, carbon, nitrogen and other elements are released into the soil.	No—plastic is a petroleum by-product.
<b>Chemicals?</b>	No—scientists have measured cut Christmas trees for chemical residue and not found any significant amounts. Many different bugs, fungi and parasites can attack and kill trees, so farmers may use pesticides to keep consumers' trees healthy. Herbicides are used to suppress weeds to prevent soil erosion. If someone tells you "there are chemicals on cut trees", they are wrong.	Yes—PVC itself is a dangerous chemical. The manufacture of PVC creates and disperses dioxins, the most toxic man-made chemical known. Released into the air or water, dioxins enter the food chain, where they accumulate in fatty tissues of animals and humans which is a potential risk for causing cancer, damaging immune functions and impairing children's development.
<b>Disposal</b>	Recycled—used trees can be recycled in a variety of ways such as being chipped into mulch and spread on trails, made into brush piles for wildlife, submerged in streams and lakes for fish habitat and chipped and burned to generate electricity. Decomposing trees add nutrients back to the earth.	Landfill—fake trees can't be recycled and end up in landfills. All of the accumulated fake trees are a burden to the environment indefinitely.
<b>Renewable resource</b>	Yes—new trees are planted every year.	No—petroleum, used to make plastic, is a non-renewable resource, as are metals.
<b>Eco-friendly?</b>	Yes—when you support your local farmer or tree lot, they help the environment by planting more trees. You are helping to sustain healthy practices.	No—once in your house and forever in a landfill.