

# Christmas Tree Safety Tips

ABOUT 19 MILLION AMERICANS WILL EITHER CUT THEIR OWN CHRISTMAS TREE THIS YEAR OR BUY THEM PRE-CUT. TO HELP KEEP YOUR HOLIDAY MERRY AND BRIGHT, FOLLOW THESE SAFETY TIPS:

- Make sure the tree is fresh; the trunk should be sticky to the touch and branches should not easily snap when you bend them.
- Shake the tree and make sure many loose needles do not fall off.
- Before bringing your tree indoors, make a 1/2 inch cut on the bottom of the trunk and let it stand in a bucket of water outside for 12 hours.
- Check the water in the tree stand daily. Make sure the tree isn't blocking any exits and keep it at least three feet away from heat vents or other heat sources.
- Artificial trees should be labeled, certified or identified by the manufacturer as fire-retardant.
- Use lights that have the label of an independent testing laboratory.
- Make sure all decorations are flame-retardant or flame-resistant.
- Do not overload extension cords or electrical outlets.
- Replace any string of lights with worn or broken cords, or loose bulb connections.
- Connect no more than 3 strands of mini-string lights together at one time.
- Never use lit candles to decorate the tree.
- Always turn off Christmas tree lights before leaving the home or going to bed.
- Dried-out trees are a fire hazard and should not be left in the home or placed outside the home.



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NC Department of Insurance  
**1-888-347-3737**  
[safekidsnc.org](http://safekidsnc.org)  
**Mike Causey**  
Commissioner

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