



Getting the best from Christmas tree

Now you've bought your lovely Christmas tree, take a few simple steps to ensure that it stays in peak condition right through the Christmas period ...

- Your Christmas tree should be treated the same as cut flowers – saw the last few centimetres off the bottom of the tree and stand the tree in a **bucket of water outside** for at least a couple of hours – ideally overnight or longer (even for days or weeks)
- If viable, before bringing the tree into the house, **take the netting off** it, and then lift the tree and **bang it down hard** on its base a few times. This will allow any loose needles to drop off outside, rather than on your floors!
- Once you have the tree inside, put it in its base or stand and secure it in place. It's worth investing in a **stand that holds water**.
- **Position the tree away from any direct source of heat.** Heat will destroy the tree quickly, so if it must be positioned near a radiator, turn that radiator off or right down.
- **Leave the tree to stand** for a couple of hours before you start to decorate it. This allows the branches to drop down into their natural position, before you add any weight to them.
- **Top up the base or stand with water regularly...** it needs water to keep fresh and healthy.