

# Living Christmas Trees

Unlike fresh-cut trees, living Christmas trees are conifers that come potted with their roots still attached.

If kept outside in containers throughout the year, living Christmas trees can be reused indoors for the holidays year after year. They can also be planted into your landscape after the holiday season is over, where they'll grow and provide lasting structure and habitat for wildlife.

Not only are living Christmas trees sustainable in the short term, the range of varieties available make them a special addition to your holiday décor while providing long-term benefits to your landscape. They do require some special care, but living Christmas trees are well worth the effort.



## INDOOR PLACEMENT

- **Spray your tree with an anti-transpirant** like MoistureLoc to prevent the needles from drying out quickly before bringing inside.
- **Move your tree to a garage or colder room** in your home for a few days to help acclimate it to warmer temperatures and lower light levels.
- **Place your tree in a well-lit part** of the house, and keep the curtains open during the day.
- **Avoid placing it close** to fireplace/heating vent.



## INDOOR TIME

- **Keep your tree inside for only 7–10 days** at a time, especially if your home is kept very warm.
- **Consider a hybrid approach** by displaying your tree on a porch or balcony and decorating it with weather-proof ornaments and lights!



## WATERING

- **Water thoroughly** to keep roots moist and avoid needles drying out and dropping—never allow your tree to sit in standing water.
- **For easy watering**, place a tray of ice cubes on top of the soil every other day.
- **Allow for room for drainage** and use a tray for excess water. Additional surface protection may be necessary for wood floors and furniture.



## DECORATING

- **LED lights are recommended** (instead of using incandescent bulbs) since they are cool-burning and won't dry out the foliage.
- **Place the plastic grower's pot** into a decorative container or wrap it with paper or burlap, and place a tray below to collect any water.
- **Use lightweight ornaments** to avoid bending or breaking the branches.
- **Consider adding natural elements** like berries, or decorating with bows and garland alongside classic ornaments.



## PLANTING

- **After the holidays**, remove all decorations and take the tree outdoors; hose off the whole plant with a fine mist spray to humidify the branches.
- **Slowly transition your indoor tree outside** starting with a day in a bright garage or on a protected porch to reduce the likelihood of shock from temperature shifts.
- **If the ground is not frozen** and the weather is favorable for planting, plant your tree! If you prefer to wait until Spring to plant, be sure to keep it well watered through Winter.