

CHRISTMAS AND WINTER SAFETY (Part Two) by Chaplain
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Christmas trees pose a special risk. The trees themselves, if a "typical" pine type tree, are not essentially toxic (with the exception of Yew and Norfolk). However, if your dog ingests needles or chews on and swallow bits of branches it can cause GI distress and possible punctures in the intestinal system. Another concern is if the trees have been sprayed or treated with any pesticides or other chemicals. Even if your dog drinks the water in your tree stand it can be harmful due to too much sap leaching into the water or mold and mildew build up in the water as it sits for a month (or more) in the stand.

Obviously, tree decorations should be watched.

Ornaments made from popcorn, cookie dough, etc. can be especially enticing. Ball shaped ornaments may look like a ball toy to your tennis ball loving pooch. Any of these decorations could cause serious issues if chewed or swallowed.