



CARE OF YOUR LIVE CHRISTMAS TREE!

LENGTH OF TIME INSIDE:

- 2 weeks is optimum, longer times should have a staged removal back outside.
- If you purchased your tree ahead of time you can keep the tree outside until you are ready to bring it in. Lightly water once per week unless the ball is frozen.
- Move the tree more by the root ball rather than grabbing the tree itself. Grabbing and pulling on the tree will loosen the root ball.

WATERING WHILE INSIDE:

- Pour water SLOWLY on top so that it soaks in vs running down the sides every 5 days to keep it moist.
- If the root ball is moist do not automatically water every 5 days. If the root ball is dry you may need to water sooner.
- **No water should pool on the bottom of your container or bucket.**

TRANSITIONING BACK OUTSIDE:

- Two weeks or less inside you may move it right outside and plant.
- Longer than two weeks inside then use a shed, garage, breezeway or outbuilding that is unheated but offers shelter from the bitter cold for at least two weeks to acclimate it to colder temperatures, then plant.

WATERING AFTER PLANTING:



- You will need to water the tree during the entire first growing season after transplanting (growing season is May-October). Other than giving it a good soaking once planted, nothing needs to be done until springtime.

Spring, summer AND FALL. The general idea is to soak the ball using a SMALL TRICKLE from a hose for 20-30 mins once a week only when it is dry. Dry = no substantial rain for 2 weeks and high temps. A good test is to dig a small hole and see how moist the soil feels 4-6 inches down. Sometimes it is deceiving, the top 2 inches may be dry but 4-6 inches down it is moist and will not need to be watered. Overwatering will kill or stunt your tree. Don't forget that there still can be dry weather in September-October. Once the tree makes it through the first growing season you should be good to go unless there is a severe drought situation.

PLANTING:

- Pick an area that drains well and is not too close to buildings, sidewalks or septic systems.
- Always know where your underground public services are located. It's free to mark it out!
- **Do not take off any burlap, wire or string.** It will all rot over time. Only if you have a plastic pot should you remove it prior to planting. Keeping the root ball together as you remove the pot is also helpful.
- Try to move the tree more by the ball than the tree as wiggling the tree will loosen the root ball.
- When backfilling, gently tap in the dirt around the root ball to prevent any air pockets from remaining. Stake the tree for 1 year.
- LIGHT fertilizer is recommended during the first growing season with a product such as a Miracle-Gro. (Following the manufactures directions.)

