



## Care of Living Christmas Trees

Buying a live Christmas tree is a win win! You not only get a live Christmas tree in the house for the holidays, but you also get to save the money and buy two trees in one! Once the holidays are over, you can either set the tree outside, in a cool garage, or leave it at room temperature in the house. When spring arrives, you will be able to plant your live Christmas tree in the yard, and enjoy it for years to come! Here are a few helpful tips on how to care for your live Christmas tree.

One of the most important things to remember is to give the tree gradual change in temperature – move it in and out of the house in stages. For example, when you bring the tree into the house, it is best to put it in a garage or entry way where the temperature is warmer than outdoors but not as hot as in the interior temperature of the home. The same is true if after Christmas, you wish to take the tree outside. Acclimate the tree slowly, move the tree from a 70°F room to say a 40°F or 50°F room (or area, such as a garage) for at least two days, then move it to the outside.

After Christmas, if you wish to move the tree outside, it should be laid down along the north or east side of the house and covered with snow, straw or some other material to protect it from fluctuating temperatures. The tree could also be kept in a cool basement or garage all winter, but will require watering about twice a month and more often than that, if the temperature is above 55°F.

If you decide to leave the tree in a warm room until spring, then water it as you would water a houseplant, letting it get fairly dry between waterings and remember to water it thoroughly all the way to the bottom about every 10 days, or as needed. The tree should also be fertilized about every two months with a weak fertilizer, which the nursery has available. Remember not to water too often and be sure to keep the tree away from hot air ducts and cold drafts. It is also a good idea to put a large rubber mat under the tree to catch water, so the moisture doesn't sit on your floors!

When the frost leaves the ground it is time to plant the tree. Be sure to remove the sides of the bushel basket or paper mache pot **after** you place the tree in the hole for planting. Dig the hole at least six or eight inches deeper and wider than necessary and put good black dirt below and all around the roots.

If you have any questions, do not hesitate to call us at 701.222.3333. You can also reach us on Facebook or visit our website at [www.cashman-nursery.com](http://www.cashman-nursery.com). Thanks! And good luck with your live Christmas tree!