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## PC-17 Fresh Cut Christmas Tree Care

### Make a Fresh Cut

- Make a fresh cut on the butt to open up the pores which have been clogged by sap. Cut off at least one-half inch.
- The fresh-cut surface should be creamy-white, not yellow or brown. If you do not make a fresh cut, the tree will not be able to drink water.
- After the cut is made, put the tree in warm water as soon as possible. The longer the time between when the tree is given a fresh cut and when it is put into the water, the less ability the tree has to absorb water.
- Even if a hole is drilled to accommodate a pin-type stand, a fresh cut also should be made on the butt.

### Place Tree in Water

- Check the stand for leaks.
- Place the tree in a sturdy stand which will hold at least one gallon of water. Fill with water treated **SUPERthrive** (1/4 tsp. per gallon).
- If the tree is not going into the house soon after the purchase, it should be stored in a bucket of clear water on a cool porch or patio away from wind and sun in warm climates and protected from freezing and wind in cold climates.

### Water Daily

- A cut tree will drink 65% of its water in the first week. A good rule of thumb is that for every 1" of diameter, a tree will use a quart of water per day. For example, a 4" diameter tree will use 1 gallon of water per day for the first several days.
- An average tree may consume between a quart and a gallon of water per day. Add **SUPERthrive** to each watering.
- If the water level drops below the cut end of the trunk, a seal will form and no more water will be absorbed by the tree unless another fresh cut is made. So don't forget to add water every day.

### Keep Away From Heat Sources

- Place the tree away from heat sources such as heating vents, fireplaces, wood stoves and fireplace inserts, radiators, television sets or sunny windows.
- Be careful not to block a door with the tree or rearranged furniture.

### LED Lights Produce Minimum Heat

- LED lights produce virtually no heat and reduce the drying effect upon a tree.
- Always check light sets for frayed, cracked wire insulation & broken sockets before placing them on a tree.
- Do not attempt to repair a worn light set. Throw it away and buy a new set.
- Do not overload electrical circuits.
- Never use lighted candles.

### Remove Tree Promptly

- Check out your local chipping and composting program with the parks and recreation department, local nursery or service organization.
- After Christmas, before the tree dies, remove it from the house for recycling or pick up by your local disposal service.
- Never burn any part of a Christmas tree in a wood stove or fireplace.

Source: *California Christmas Tree Association*

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