

Christmas Tree Safety Tips

Christmas is coming this weekend which means cracking open that special bottle of wine you've been saving, indulging in fistfuls of cookies, and if you're like me, giving your brother an utterly useless and oversized gift for their [tiny Manhattan apartment](#). That might teach him not to leave me in midtown after the trains stop running. But as we're preparing for all this Christmas cheer and holiday fun, we tend to forget about the newest addition to our home décor: the Christmas tree! Every year there are thousands of reported injuries involving Christmas trees, from cutting it down to it unexpectedly falling over while trying to watch "Home for the Holidays." That's why it's important for you to know how to avoid these accidents in order to have a fun and safe holiday!

Secure Your Tree

When you finally manage to drag the tree into your house, hopefully squirrel free, you're most



The added weight of ornaments and lights can disproportionately weigh down your tree, causing it to fall if not secured.

likely planning on placing it right in your tree holder so you don't get sap on the carpet. Once you do, chances are you back away and assess what to do next. Well I'm here to let you in on the secret: secure it. Unfortunately I didn't listen to my own advice this year and [my girlfriend got flattened like a pancake](#) by our 8 foot Douglas Fir. Securing your tree is as simple as getting some twine or rope to tie to the trunk, and then tying the other end to something sturdy. That way your tree doesn't fall unexpectedly, and you don't end up with a loved one who looks like a pin cushion with pine needles sticking out of her. Sorry, Laura...

Give Your Tree a Drink... It's Pretty Parched

Watering your tree is massively important, and yes, it should be done every day. Trees go through a big trauma after being chopped down. Taking away the root system impairs your tree's ability to get its fair share of water. If you chop down the tree yourself, you should be good to put

it in the Christmas tree holder, water it, and be okay until the next day. But if you bought a pre-cut Christmas tree, the base may already be decaying from a lack of water. In this case, chop a few inches off before placing it in your holder, and give it a lot of water to drink up. By following these steps, you'll avoid your tree turning brown prematurely and ensure yourself a very green Christmas.

Get Rid of All Fire Hazards

We've all seen the tragic stories on the 11 o'clock news every year. A Christmas tree bursts into flames because an ember from a fireplace hit a dry branch; there was an exposed wire on an old set of Christmas lights, or some other sad story leading to the entire home catching ablaze. If you really think about Christmas night with family and how many candles are lit and how children are fairly unsupervised as they play with their cousins and siblings, you'll understand accidents are bound to happen. By keeping your tree watered to prevent it from drying out and becoming a pile of kindling in your living room, you're on the right track. However [keeping the tree out of any clear and present fire hazards](#) is the most important thing you can do this Holiday to keep you and your loved ones safe. As an added tip, it may also be wise to know where your fire extinguisher is and to check if it's past its expiration date.

For more tips or tricks on how to properly care for your tree, feel free to give us a call, and we can help give you some direction. In the meantime, [we here at Giroud](#) would like to wish you a warm and Merry Christmas, and a Happy Holidays. And for any tree or lawn care services you may need, we hope you keep us in mind.