

FRESH CUT CHRISTMAS TREE CARE

Nothing is quite as comforting and lovely as the fragrance of a fresh cut tree in your home for the holidays. Learn more about keeping your tree looking its best for the whole season!

VARIETIES

There are many different varieties of trees that can be used inside a home for the holidays, but **Fraser Fir** and **Balsam Fir** are the two most common varieties sold in the Northeast.

What is the difference between Fraser Fir and Balsam Fir?

Balsam Fir Attributes:

- Softer needles
- More flexible branches
- Longer, flat needles (¾ to 1¼ inches)
- Needles are dark green with silvery underside
- Stronger Fragrance
- Needles grow in two rows along the sides of each branch

Fraser Fir Attributes:

- Stiffer needles
- Stronger branches for heavier ornaments
- Needles are a deep blue-green color with silvery-blue undersides
- Shorter, rounded needles (½ to 1 inch)
- Better needle retention
- Needles grow in a spiral all around each branch

Other varieties sold at Mahoney's include the **Cook Fir**, a balsam/fraser hybrid, and **White Pine**, which is an excellent option for those who suffer from fir pollen allergies.

SELECTION

When choosing a tree variety, consider the size and weight of your ornaments as well as how long you would like to have it up in your home.

PRESERVATION TIPS

When properly cared for, you can expect a cut Christmas tree to look green and fresh for approximately **three weeks** inside your home.

- As soon as a tree is cut from its base, sap begins to drip and seal the pores that are in the wood at the cut face of the trunk. Think of it as the tree's own defense mechanism to try and preserve itself. This natural process helps the trees stay fresh during transport.
- After purchasing your tree, cutting off the base can open the pores again to allow the tree to rehydrate and extend its life in your home. A standard fresh cut is 1 to 1½ inches.
- Once the tree is set up in your home, it is best to fill your tree stand or base with **warm** water as soon as possible. Mahoney's recommends that you **do not wait any longer than 4 hours** after the base is cut before putting it in water.
- Check the water level twice a day for the first few days and then daily leading up to Christmas. **It is imperative that the water is never allowed to dry out or go below the base of the tree, as this will allow the sap to seal the pores again, preventing the tree from drinking.**
- To keep your tree fresh for as long as possible, place your tree in an area of your home away from any heat source or direct sunlight.
- Watering your tree with **Prolong Christmas Tree Preservative** will help the tree absorb water more effectively, extending the life of the tree in your home. Safe for use around children and pets!

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