



SF Environment



Green
Holiday
Tree

Tree Care Instructions

Thank you for adopting a Green Holiday Tree and supporting tree planting in San Francisco. The following instructions will help you take care of your tree during the holidays so it will be healthy and happy when it's planted outside.

Placement

Keep the tree outside for as long as possible, and bring outside again as soon as you can. If you can't leave it outside, try to position the tree where it can receive as much natural sunlight as possible and open a window to let it have fresh air as much as possible. Always keep the tree in a cool area away from heating vents, space heaters and fireplaces. Keep the tree about 10 feet away from houseplants to prevent the possible transfer of insect pests.

Watering

Watering the tree is very important! If the soil looks or feels dry, water the tree. Keep the soil moist, but do not over water or flood the tree. Place a pan or bucket under the tree pot to collect extra water and prevent leaking. You can reuse a one-gallon milk or juice jug to water the tree.

Care When Moving

When moving the tree, always support the trunk from the base and watch out for the top! The top-most branch is called the "leader" and must be protected to ensure good tree form long term. Think of the tree as a big, delicate glass vase. Any damage will hurt the tree's future growth and health.

Decorating

- Avoid using heat-generating lights, flocking, artificial snow or tinsel!
- We recommend a small string of LED (Light Emitting Diode) lights that save energy and avoid damaging the tree.
- Hang lights evenly around the tree.
- Place lighter ornaments further out along branches.
- Place heavier ornaments near the trunk at the base of branches.
- Avoid putting heavy objects on the tree since they can damage it.

"Dreaming of a Green Christmas" is a joint project of Friends of the Urban Forest, Hayes Valley Art Works, and the San Francisco Dept. of the Environment.