



Planning Your Trip

Christmas Tree Cutting

Before You Go:

- Measure the space where you plan to place the tree (height and width) and the space in your vehicle where you will be transporting the tree.
- Notify someone of your plans, including your expected arrival and return time, and the location where you will be cutting your tree.
- Check the latest weather conditions and road closures.
- Pack plenty of food, water, blankets, and extra pairs of warm clothing for each member of your party.
- Bring a map and make sure your vehicle has a full tank of gas. Consider using studded tires or chains for added traction. Four-wheel drive may be required in some areas.
- Bring a spare key, shovel, and tow chain in case of emergency.
- Bring a measuring tape, handsaw, tarp, and rope or straps to secure your tree to your vehicle.
- Dress warmly in weather-resistant clothing, including a hat, scarf, gloves, and boots.

During Your Trip:

- Start your day early and aim to finish cutting and transporting your tree before dark.
- Park your vehicle safely, without blocking gates or public roadways.
- Choose a tree from a dense forested area to give the remaining trees more space to grow. Make sure it will fit in the space you measured.
- Cut the stump at ground level and remove any leftover branches from the stump. Scatter the branches.
- Carry your tree carefully out of the woods, rather than dragging it, to avoid damaging the needles and bark.
- If the tree is too large to transport inside your vehicle, wrap it in a tarp or canvas to protect it from wind damage and secure it to your vehicle.

After You Return Home:

- If storing your tree outside for a few days, place it in a protected area, such as the north or east side of your house or under a shaded tree.
- Cut off about 1 inch from the bottom of the trunk and discard the cut piece.
- Submerge the trunk in plain water and check the water level daily. A fresh tree may absorb up to one gallon of water per day.
- Place the tree away from heat sources, such as heating vents, fireplaces, wood stoves, radiators, television sets, and sunny windows.
- Use miniature lights to reduce heat and the drying effect on the tree. Check the lights for frayed or cracked wire insulation and broken sockets before using them. Do not attempt to repair a damaged light set; throw it away and buy a new one.
- Turn off the tree lights when leaving the house or going to bed.
- After Christmas, remove the tree from your house and dispose of it responsibly, either through your local pick-up service or chipping and compost program. Do not burn any part of a Christmas tree in a wood stove or fireplace.