

Christmas Tree Policy

Plano Fire Department Fire Prevention Division



Trees: Natural cut trees, where permitted by the Plano Fire Department, shall have the trunk bottoms diagonally cut off at least one inch above the original cut and shall be placed in a support device complying with this policy.

Location: Natural cut trees where permitted shall not be located near heating vents or other fixed or portable heating device.

Restricted Occupancies: Natural cut trees are not permitted in the following occupancies: A, (Assembly) E, (Educational) I-1, I-2, 1-3, and I-4, (Institutional) (M, Mercantile) R-1, (Hotels, and Motels) and R-4, (Residential Care/Assisted Living Facilities including more than 5 but not more than 16 occupants).

Exceptions:

1. Living trees in a balled condition with their roots protected by an earth ball shall not be prohibited provided they are maintained in a fresh condition and are not allowed to dry.
2. Natural Cut trees located in areas protected by an approved automatic sprinkler system shall not be prohibited in Group A, E, M, R-1 occupancies.

Support Device: The support device that holds the tree in an upright position shall be a type that is stable and meets the following criteria:

1. The device shall hold the tree securely and be of adequate size to avoid tipping the tree.
2. The device shall be capable of containing a minimum of two-day water supply.
3. The water level when full shall cover the tree stem at least two inches.

Dryness: The tree shall be removed from the building whenever the needles or leaves fall off readily when the tree branch is shaken. The tree shall be checked daily for dryness by a responsible person.

Obstruction of Egress: The required width of any portion of a means of egress shall not be obstructed by decorative vegetation.

Open Flames: Candles and open flames shall not be used on or near natural vegetation. Natural cut trees shall be kept a distance from heat vents and any open flame device or heat-producing device at least equal to the height of the tree.

Electrical Fixtures and wiring: The use of unlisted electrical wiring and lighting on decorative vegetation is prohibited.

Outdoor Lighting: Never plug more than 600 2.5 watt, 380 4-watt bulbs, and 255 7-watt bulbs into a single outlet. And use proper light clips, never staples. When installing outdoor lighting, wear rubber-soled shoes and use outside extension cords. Take down the lights after the holidays. Do not leave lights up more than 90 days-don't leave them up all year. Simply put; follow the directions provided by the manufacturer.

Artificial Vegetation: Artificial decorative vegetation shall be flame resistant or flame retardant. Such flame resistance or flame retardant shall be documented and certified by the manufacturer and available to the inspection authority upon request.

Lights: The use of electrical wiring and lighting on metal artificial trees is prohibited.

