Home Safety with a Real Christmas Tree!

Pender County Cooperative Extension

Disposing of a Real Christmas Tree:
- Do not burn the tree.
- Do not store in your house of garage.
- Do not plant your Christmas tree.
- Most beaches will take Christmas trees for dune renewal.
- Visit www.pender.ces.ncsu.edu to find out Pender County’s tree drop off locations and times.

When you Buy a real Christmas Tree, a good tree should have:
- A sticky, sappy trunk
- Needles that are hard to pull off of branches
- Rich green needles and brown branches and trunks.

When Decorating a real Christmas Tree you should:
- Use only lights that are tested for indoor use on an indoor tree.
- Check each set of lights before putting them on the tree.
- Do not exceed three light strands per extension cord.
- Extension cords should run along the wall, and not in the middle of the floor.
- Keep cords away from a tree’s water.
- Avoid decorating the tree with candy canes if you have small children, they may think other ornaments are edible as well.
- Use non-combustible and Flame Retardant materials only.
- Turn lights off at bedtime, and when leaving the house!

When it comes to taking care of a real Christmas Tree:
- Tree stands should take no less than a gallon of water.
- Be sure to cut two inches off of the trunk before mounting it.
- If the water is drained out of the stand for more than 4 hours, you may need to re-cut the trunk.

When Buying an Artificial Tree:
- Be sure to buy one that is flame retardant.
- If buying a pre-lit tree, test each section each year before putting up the tree.
- If you use a Christmas tree scent spray, remember to unplug the tree when applying the spray.