



How to choose & care for a **Real Christmas Tree**

Christmas comes but once a year and picking out the perfect tree to decorate your home is a family ritual full of fun and excitement. Here is our guide to choosing a real Christmas tree this festive season.

Why choose a real Christmas tree?

- There is nothing quite like the aroma of a real Christmas tree
- They help the environment by storing carbon and producing oxygen as they grow
- They come in sizes to fit all spaces in your home
- They give that magical Christmas feeling we love



How to choose the right tree

Real trees offer variety, both in shape and size, meaning you can get the perfect one to suit your home. Before choosing, measure the space in your home, remembering that the tree stand could add to the height; if your real Christmas tree doesn't quite fit into the corner of the room, just grab your shears and do some trimming.

You can check if it is fresh by holding the inside of a branch and gently pulling your hand towards you. The needles should stay on the tree.

These are the most common types of tree bought in the UK:

- **Nordmann Fir** - Soft, dark green foliage and excellent needle retention has made this the UK's most popular real Christmas tree.
- **Norway Spruce** - Often regarded as the traditional tree, it is pyramid in shape and smells lovely.
- **Blue Spruce** - An elegant tree with natural blue foliage.
- **Fraser Fir** - This tree is often leaner in shape with much denser foliage.



How do I care for my tree?

Whatever type of tree you choose, care remains the same. Keep it well watered. If your tree has roots make sure you keep the soil moist. If your tree is 'sawn' it can be stored in a bucket of water until you are ready to bring it inside and put it in your stand. To help your tree look fresh, try not to bring your tree inside in the warmth too early. Place your tree away from direct heat, such as radiators or an open fire and keep the container topped up with water every day.

How do I dispose of my tree?

Once the festive season is over, if your tree has roots you can plant it in January and care for it through the year to enjoy it again next Christmas. Alternatively, you can dispose of your tree in several environmentally friendly ways. Many councils organise special collections or drop off points for used Christmas trees (search online for ones near you), and real trees can be used for chippings.

