



Media Release

For Immediate Release

December 12, 2007

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Make eco-friendly Christmas tree choices this year

When choosing a Christmas tree this year, the most environmentally friendly option is to purchase live potted tree to plant in your garden after the holidays. Here are some guidelines to help ensure your tree survives the holidays:

- Choose a native species that will thrive when you plant it outside. Remember that non-native plants can disrupt your local ecosystem. Consult a local nursery for advice on appropriate tree species.
- When you bring your tree home, place it outside in a sheltered area, such as a garage, for a few days. This will allow it to acclimatize to the indoor environment. Sudden changes in temperature can harm your tree.
- Water the tree well before bringing it inside. Your tree's pot should have holes in it that allow water to drain. When your tree is inside, place a tray's worth of ice cubes on top of the soil each day to keep it watered. Make sure you place a tray under the pot to catch any water that may drain out.
- Your tree should stay inside for a maximum of 10 days. A prolonged indoor stay could damage the tree when you take it back outside. After Christmas, place your tree outside in a sheltered area to allow it to acclimatize.
- Plant your tree in your yard. You will have a friend for many years to come.

If you must buy a cut tree be sure to have it chipped after the holidays. Christmas tree chipping events are sponsored in many communities throughout British Columbia.

If you're not sure where to take your tree to be chipped, call the Recycling Council of BC Hotline at 604-RECYCLE in the Lower Mainland or 1-800-667-4321 in the rest of BC.

To make sure your tree is properly prepared for chipping, please follow these steps:

- Make sure your tree is completely bare of decorations and strings of any sort. Strings of lights, wire or garland can present a safety hazard if they are caught in the chipper.
- Foil and plastic tinsel is hard to remove from the tree when the holiday is over. This material spoils the appearance of the natural mulch and reduces its value. If you plan on having your tree chipped, please consider foregoing tinsel.
- If you wrap your tree in a sheet of plastic for transport, please be sure to remove the plastic when you arrive at the chipping location and take the plastic home with you.

The Recycling Council of British Columbia (RCBC) Hotline provides information on recycling, waste minimization, waste disposal. Call us at 604-RECYCLE in the Lower Mainland or 1-800-667-4321 in the rest of BC. Visit our website at www.rcbc.bc.ca.

The Recycling Council of British Columbia is a multi-sectoral non-profit organization promoting the principles of Zero Waste through information services, the exchange of ideas, and research. Businesses, governments, non-profit-organizations and concerned citizens from across B.C. make up our diverse membership.

Founded in 1974, RCBC is Canada's longest-serving recycling council and has earned the reputation of being one of the most widely respected multi-sectoral environmental organizations in the province today. RCBC has played a major role in the establishment of the many groundbreaking product stewardship programs in the province, which are emulated around the world. Further information can be accessed at www.rcbc.bc.ca or by calling the RCBC Recycling Hotline at 604RECYCLE or 1-800-667-4321.