



City of Anaheim  
Fire Department  
Fire Prevention Bureau



## Specifications and Requirements

**Subject:** CHRISTMAS TREES IN PUBLIC BUILDINGS

**References:** California Fire Code, 2001 Edition, Appendix IV-B; California Administrative Code, Title 19

The use of natural or resin-bearing cut trees in any public building shall be in accordance with the following requirements. These requirements do not apply to live, potted trees.

### Permits

A permit is required prior to placement of a tree in a public building.

### Flame Retardance

Trees shall be properly treated with a flame retardant approved by the California State Fire Marshal.

**Exception:** The chief may waive this requirement when the tree is fresh. Consideration should be given to humidity, temperature, and the dryness of the tree at the time of set up.

### Tags

Trees shall bear a California State Fire Marshal's tag stating the type of flame-retardant treatment used, and the name and registration number of the concern responsible for applying the chemical.

### Support Device

The support device that holds a tree in an upright position shall be of a type that is stable and that:

- Does not damage or require removal of the tree stem base,
- Holds the tree securely and is of adequate size to avoid tipping over of the tree, and
- Is capable of containing a two day minimum supply of water, covering the stem at least two inches, and the quantity specified in Table No. A-IV-B-1.

TABLE NO. A-IV-B-1  
SUPPORT STAND WATER CAPACITY

Tree Height (in feet)	Minimum Support Stand Water Capacity (in gallons)	Typical Daily Water Evaporation Amount (in gallons)
Up to 6 ½	½	⅛ to ¼
6 ½ to 10	1	¼ to ½
Over 10	3	½ to 1 ½

### Butt Cut

Prior to setting up a tree, the trunk shall have a fresh butt cut on a diagonal at least one inch above the original cut.

### Watering

Hot tap water shall be used when first filling a support stand, and the stand shall not be allowed to become dry of water.

### Dryness

Trees shall be checked for dryness by the following method:

Stand in front of a branch; grasp it with reasonably firm pressure and pull your hand toward you, allowing the branch to slip through your grasp. If the needles fall off readily, the tree does not have adequate moisture content, and shall be removed immediately.

### Open Flames

Candles and open flames shall not be used on or near a tree within a distance equal to the height of the tree.

### Electric Lights

Electrical decorations used on trees shall be U.L. listed.

### Disposal

Trees should not be burned. Anaheim disposal services will pick up Christmas trees on regular refuse disposal days. Anaheim residents can also dispose of Christmas trees at the public recycling center located at 1131 North Blue Gum Avenue, Monday through Friday, 7:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Saturday from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and on Sunday from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

**For further information regarding these requirements contact: Fire Prevention Bureau at (714) 765-4040 between the hours of 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday.**