



*City of Anaheim*  
**Fire Department**  
*Fire Prevention Bureau*  
**Specifications and Requirements**

**Subject:** CHRISTMAS TREES IN BUILDINGS

**References:** California Fire Code 2007 Edition, Section 806, California Code of Regulations, Title 19, Division 1, Chapter 8

Natural cut trees are allowed in the following occupancies only if the occupancy is protected by an approved automatic sprinkler system:

- Assembly Occupancies such as restaurants and churches
- Educational Occupancies such as schools and large day cares
- Mercantile Occupancies such as department stores and markets
- Residential Occupancies with multiple units such as hotels, motels and apartment common areas

Natural cut trees are prohibited in hospitals, nursing homes, assisted living facilities and halfway houses.

### **Flame Retardance**

Artificial trees and vegetation shall be flame resistant. Natural cut 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 person 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 meets all of the following criteria:

- The device shall hold the tree securely and be of adequate size to avoid tipping over of the tree
- The device shall be capable of containing a minimum two-day supply of water
- The water level, when full, shall cover the tree stem at least 2 inches. The water level shall be maintained above the fresh cut and checked at least once.

### **Butt Cut**

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

### **Dryness**

The tree shall be removed from the building whenever the needles or leaves fall off readily when a tree branch is shaken or if the needles are brittle and break when bent between the thumb and index finger. The tree shall be checked daily for dryness.

### **Open Flames**

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

### **Electric Lights**

Electrical wiring and lighting used on trees shall be U.L. listed. The use of electrical wiring and lighting on artificial trees constructed entirely of metal is prohibited.

### **Exits**

The entire portion of an exit including corridors, aisles, and exit doors shall not be obstructed by the tree.

### **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.**