



# Real Trees for the Holidays!



I love real Christmas trees!



***I bet you thought buying a fake Christmas tree was the right thing to do to help protect Earth! IT'S NOT!***

**Buy a real tree!** It takes 8 to 12 years for a Christmas tree to grow. But guess what? All those years of growing help our Earth. Many of us worry that cutting down that tree will hurt Earth. If you cut one from a national park or protected habitat, that wouldn't be good. However, Christmas tree farms replant millions of trees each year and that's great for Earth.



**Christmas Tree History-** Decorating a home with trees and branches is an ancient tradition. Tree greens were believed to be used to brighten up people's spirits and keep away illness during the winter. The tradition of decorating trees outside is thought to have begun in the 1500's and by the 1800's people began placing trees inside their homes to decorate around the Christmas holiday.

## Learn how live Christmas trees help our Earth.

1. Real Christmas trees absorb carbon dioxide through the needles, then combine with sun and water to make food and release oxygen. This helps to slow global warming.
- 2 They help reduce air pollution by absorbing toxic gases and changing it to safer, more breathable air.
3. They help to filter particles of dust, ash, pollen and smoke.
4. Their roots help absorb water into the soil and hold the soil in place. Also trees keep soil from blowing away.
5. They help to provide homes for wildlife all year long.
6. Real trees absorb and store CO<sub>2</sub> throughout their lives. At the end, they decompose, becoming part of the soil, which is still capable of storing CO<sub>2</sub>. Try composting your tree at home.





This video from the Minnesota Christmas Tree Association will help you to understand the importance of growing and buying live Christmas trees!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Z69CMzuf63s>



After you have bought a live tree, make your holiday even Greener!

1. When your holiday has ended, take your tree outside to stand it up close to your bird feeder. You can hang pine cones on it covered with peanut butter and seeds. The birds will have a new food source and a good place to hide while flitting back and forth from the bird feeder.

2. Some communities have Christmas tree pick ups. The communities compost the trees. Then the citizens can pick up the compost for their yards. You can also cut them up yourself and put them in your compost pile. Eventually they will turn into soil.

3. Look for holiday gifts that are considered healthy for the environment like those made out of recycled products.

4. Reuse wrapping paper or buy "wrapping bags" you can reuse.

5. Have a Reuse Holiday Gift store at your school to encourage reusing. Earn funds and help Earth!! It's easy to have a [used book sale](#)

6. Shop the Kids for Saving Earth [Green Shop](#) for good holiday gifts like reusable shopping bags and bottles. Also books about Earth-saving can be a nice gift for your teacher, your brother or sister.

<https://kidsforsavingearth.org/green-shop/>

Learn more about Real Christmas Trees

<https://mncta.com/>

<https://mncta.com/go-green-get-real-campaign>