

FIREPROOF THAT CHRISTMAS TREE

Every year many dreams result in tragedy as a result of Christmas trees catching on fire. Traditionally, we take a dead tree (usually a spruce or fir, which is highly flammable when dry), not properly prepared, set it in our homes and wrap it in electric wires. What an invitation for a fire!

The following safety tip can help to fireproof natural Christmas trees, but you must follow the directions carefully: Ingredients Two cups of Karo syrup Two ounces of liquid chlorine bleach Two pinches of Epsom salts One-half teaspoon of Borax One teaspoon of chelated iron Hot water

You can purchase the Karo syrup, Borax, and a liquid chlorine bleach from your supermarket. The Epsom salts can be purchased from a drug store, and the chelated iron (pronounced KEY-lated) can be purchased from a garden shop or plant store.

PROCEDURE

- 1) With a saw, take your recently purchased Christmas tree and make a fresh cut at the base on the tree trunk. Cut an inch off the base of the tree. Try to make it a level cut.
- 2) Immediately after cutting the base off of the tree, mix your fireproofing ingredients as listed above. Fill a two-gallon bucket with hot water to within one inch of the top and add the ingredients. Stir thoroughly.
- 3) Immediately stand the trunk of the tree in this solution and leave for 24 hours.
- 4) Keep the remaining solution and place your tree in a stand with a well into which liquid can be poured.
- 5) When the tree is in its final resting place, use a plastic cup to pour solution from the bucket into the tree well. Fill the well.
- 6) Every day without exception, the well of the tree must be "topped off" with the solution from the two-gallon bucket.

Follow these simple directions and your tree will be fireproofed. If you are curious, after Christmas, when you remove your tree, snap off a branch and try to set it on fire OUTSIDE OF YOUR HOUSE.

HOW DOES IT WORK?

In a nutshell, the Karo syrup provides the sugar necessary to allow the base of the tree to take up water. A tree can take up to 1.5 gallons of water over a two-week period of time.

Boron in the Borax allows the tree to move the water and sugar to all the branches and needles in your tree. Magnesium compounds in the Epsom salts and iron from the chelated iron provides essential components for the production of chlorophyll, which will keep the tree green. The bleach prevents mold from forming in your solution.

Some of the other beneficial side effects of this procedure are that the needles will not drop and you will notice an increase in natural pine fragrance.