

HOW TO CARE FOR YOUR TREE



Before you pick up

Bring straps/rope, a tarp/old sheet or blanket.

Transport it safely

Lay the tree flat in a trailer or ute with the trunk facing the front (into the wind). Tie it down at the trunk and mid-section so branches don't get thrashed. If using roof racks, same rule: trunk forward, well-secured, ideally tarped.

Park & pause

When you get home, keep the tree in the shade. Stand the trunk in a bucket of water for 30–60 minutes while you prep the spot indoors.

Give it a fresh cut

Trim 1–2 cm straight off the base (fresh cut = better water uptake). Don't shave the bark or taper the trunk. Remove only the lowest branches needed to fit the stand.

Use a sturdy stand

Pop it into a proper water-holding stand (bigger is better—think several litres). Get it upright and stable before you fill.

Fill with plain water

Top the stand with fresh tap water until the cut end is well submerged. No sugar, aspirin, bleach, or Grandma's "secret potion." Just water.

Choose a cool spot (NZ summer tip)

Keep it out of direct sun. Heat = dry = droop.

First 48 hours = thirsty

Check the water every few hours on day 1–2. A fresh tree can guzzle 1–4 litres/day at the start. Never let the water level drop below the cut end (if it does and it stops drinking, you'll need another small fresh cut).

Daily top-ups

After the initial binge, check daily and top up as needed. Consistent water = lush needles and that glorious fresh-tree smell.

Lights & safety

Use LED lights (cooler). Turn them off when you're out or asleep. Keep cords tidy and away from water.