



December 18,
2009

Tip of the Week

How "green" is your Christmas tree?

Which is "greener"- an artificial tree that is re-used year after year or a fresh tree bought from a tree lot?

You might be surprised, but you

will have to re-use that artificial tree for 20 years before it has a lower carbon footprint than a real tree! Each artificial tree has an average of 7.3 lbs of PVC (polyvinyl chloride). Approximately 8.9 million artificial trees were imported into the US last year-most of them from China. Do the math, that's how many *million* pounds of PVC?

More "green" info:

- The process of growing trees for harvest as Christmas trees creates oxygen and cleans the air. When you consider there were about 28.2



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million live Christmas trees sold in the US last year, that's a lot of oxygen!

- After the holidays, live trees can be recycled effectively into garden compost or for mulch. Many municipalities offer Christmas tree recycling drop-off locations, so check with your municipality or county for related services in your area.
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One of the drawbacks to live trees is the fire hazard. But switching to LED lights, which don't heat up at all can alleviate that hazard. Plus, by using 90% less energy than incandescent bulbs, they make lighting up your live tree truly green!

Need help making your property really green with lush, but low-water plants, energy-saving landscape lighting and water-conserving technology for your sprinkler system? Go to www.alcc.com and click on *Find a Pro*.

Some information courtesy O Magazine, December 2009. Photo courtesy U.S. Senate.