

Christmas trees and asthma

Christmas tree syndrome

Christmas tree syndrome is the term used when someone has an allergic reaction to a Christmas tree, due to dust, pollen or mould.

Know the symptoms

Christmas tree syndrome is a condition that causes:

- wheezing
- sneezing
- coughing
- sore eyes
- potentially serious asthma attacks.

Real Christmas trees like cypress and the ever-popular pine can collect a high amount of pollen from other plants before they are cut down. This can trigger asthma and hay fever symptoms once you bring them home, especially if you put them up indoors.

Artificial trees can also cause asthma and allergy symptoms as they accumulate dust, dust mites and even mould in storage.

With a bit of preparation, you can limit your exposure to the asthma and allergy triggers hiding in your Christmas tree.



Real Christmas Trees

- Hose down your real tree before you bring it into the house. This will help to wash off the allergens.
- If you notice increased asthma or allergy symptoms, move your tree outside.

Artificial Christmas trees

- Give your artificial tree a good shake outdoors, before putting it up inside.
- Vacuum your artificial tree and decorations as you get them out of the box, unpacking them outside if possible.
- Wipe down your artificial tree, wreaths, garlands and ornaments with a damp cloth to remove the dust.
- When you pack the tree and decorations away, use airtight plastic bags and sealed boxes so they're less likely to collect dust.

First aid for asthma

Swift action can prevent an asthma attack from becoming an asthma emergency. If asthma symptoms occur:

- Follow your personal asthma action plan.
- If you don't have an asthma action plan, take 4 separate puffs of a blue/grey reliever via a spacer.
- If the symptoms aren't going away or are getting worse, then follow the steps in First Aid for Asthma.

First Aid for Asthma charts:

- [First Aid for Asthma 12+](#)
- [First Aid for Asthma Children Under 12](#)
- [First Aid for Asthma Combination Inhalers](#)



Important reminder

When you're out and about celebrating during the festive season, make sure you have your medication with you and take it as advised by your doctor.

Access first aid for asthma charts



Download allergy action plans



Download asthma action plans



Disclaimer: It is important to note that information contained in this fact sheet is not intended to replace professional medical advice. Any questions regarding a medical diagnosis or treatment should be directed to a medical practitioner.