

Having difficulty making an ecofriendly choice for Christmas tree?

Here is the environmental debate: Real Tree Vs. Fake Tree

	Real Tree	Fake Tree
Place of Origin	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• United States &amp; Canada</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 85% from China</li></ul>
Method of production	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• farming</li><li>• planting takes place Jan-May</li><li>• estimated 40-45 million trees planted in 2008 in North America</li><li>• estimated 446 million trees growing on farms in U.S.</li><li>• tree farms support complex eco-systems</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• factory</li><li>• raw materials sent to factory &amp; assembled into final product</li><li>• product is shipped to U.S. then distributed to stores</li><li>• number of factories unknown</li><li>• factories only consume natural resources</li></ul>
Components	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• plant tissue</li><li>• 100% biodegradable</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• plastics and metals</li><li>• non-biodegradable</li></ul>
PVC Free?	Yes	No
Lead Free?	Yes	No (lead is used in the process of making PVC plastic)
Carbon Neutral?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Yes</li><li>• trees absorb carbon dioxide</li><li>• when decomposing, carbon, nitrogen, and other elements are released into soil</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• No</li><li>• plastic is a petroleum byproduct</li></ul>
Chemicals?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• No</li><li>• Scientists have measured cut Christmas trees for chemical residue and not found any significant amounts</li><li>• Many different bugs, fungi and parasites can attack and kill trees, so farmers may use pesticides to keep</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Yes</li><li>• PVC itself is a dangerous chemical</li><li>• Manufacture of PVC creates and disperses dioxins, the most toxic man-made chemical known</li></ul>

