

CHAPTER 8 - SECTION 806

DECORATIVE VEGETATION

806.1 Natural cut trees. Natural cut trees, where allowed by this section, shall have the trunk bottoms cut off at least 0.5 inch (12.7 mm) above the original cut and shall be placed in a support device complying with Section 806.1.2.

806.1.1 Restricted occupancies. Natural cut trees shall be prohibited in all occupancies.

Exceptions:

1. Trees located in areas protected by an approved automatic sprinkler system installed in accordance with Section 903.3.1.1 or 903.3.1.2 shall not be prohibited.
2. Trees shall be allowed within individual dwelling units.

806.1.2 Support devices. The support device that holds the tree in an upright position shall be of a type that is stable and that meets all of the following criteria:

1. The device shall hold the tree securely and be of adequate size to avoid tipping over of the tree.
2. The device shall be capable of containing a minimum two-day supply of water.
3. The water level, when full, shall cover the tree stem at least 2 inches (51 mm).

The water level shall be maintained above the fresh cut and checked at least once daily.

806.1.3 Dryness. The tree shall be removed from the building whenever the needles or leaves fall off readily when a tree branch is shaken or if the needles are brittle and break when bent between the thumb and index finger. The tree shall be checked daily for dryness.

806.2 Artificial vegetation. Artificial decorative vegetation shall meet the flame propagation performance criteria of NFPA 701. Meeting the flame propagation performance criteria of NFPA 701 shall be documented and certified by the manufacturer in an approved manner.

806.3 Obstruction of means of egress. The required width of any portion of a means of egress shall not be obstructed by decorative vegetation and the decorative vegetation shall not be placed near any stairway or elevator shaft.

806.4 Open flame. Candles and open flames shall not be used on or near decorative vegetation. Natural cut trees shall be kept a distance from heat vents and any open flame or heat-producing devices at least equal to the height of the tree.

806.5 Electrical fixtures and wiring. The use of unlisted electrical wiring and lighting on natural cut trees and artificial decorative vegetation shall be prohibited. The use of electrical wiring and lighting on artificial trees constructed entirely of metal shall be prohibited.

806.6 Show windows. Decorative vegetation and wreaths shall not be used for decorative purposes in show windows or other parts of buildings in such a quantity as to constitute a fire hazard unless such material is flameproofed in an approved manner.

806.7 Under-tree decorations. No flammable decorations, combustible tree skirts or decorative gift packages may be placed on or under or around decorative vegetation. This restriction does not apply to decorative vegetation displayed in a sprinklered building.

806.8 Holiday wreaths. Holiday wreaths shall be permitted in any building but such wreaths shall not exceed 10 percent of the aggregate wall area of any room or space.

806.9 Live trees. Live trees include any container-grown balled and burlaped or bailed and potted tree that has been uprooted, its roots protected by an earthen ball and maintained in a fresh, hardy condition. Live trees shall be displayed in a manner that does not allow the tree to become dry, and any tree which becomes dry, brittle, or show signs of dying, shall be removed from the building.

806.10 Powers of enforcing agency. The appropriate enforcing agency or fire official shall approve the placement of a live or natural tree in a public or commercial building, may limit the number of trees in any building, and may order the removal of a tree from a building or occupancy if the fire official determines that the condition of the tree poses a safety hazard.