How to Plant a Tree at Home

Feeling inspired to do more for the environment? Planting a native, ecologically appropriate tree is a simple yet impactful action anyone can take. Check out our handy "How to" guide to learn more!

1. Dig a wide, shallow hole (it should only be as deep as the height of the pot your seedling came in).

2. Carefully remove the seedling from its pot (and loosen roots if rootbound).

3. Nestle the seedling into the hole and backfill, compressing as you go. Do a tug test.

4. Build a raised, donut-shaped berm to help water flow towards the seedling.

5. Add mulch around the seedling to help with water retention.

6. Water your new tree to help it acclimate to its new home.
Additional Resources

Connect with your local tree nursery or garden supply shop to purchase all the essential plants and tools. They can also advise on the best species for your climate and region.

Species Selection:
It’s important to carefully match the conditions of your site with the tree you choose. For example, if you live in San Francisco and want to create wildlife habitat and encourage pollinators, you might plant a native Coast Live Oak (Quercus agrifolia). Oaks provide a dense canopy to shade sidewalks and shelter native birds, drop acorns every fall, and more.

Recommended Tools:

- SOIL
- MULCH
- GLOVES
- CLOSED TOE SHOES
- LONG PANTS
- BUCKET
- SHOVEL
- SPADE
- RAKE
- HOSE OR WATERING CAN
- WHEELBARROW