

FACT SHEET

Decorating Verge Trees (Lights and Decorations)

Decorating Verge Trees

Public trees provide significant benefits to the Town of East Fremantle. To ensure their health and longevity, we've created these guidelines that must be followed when decorating verge trees.

Tree Decorations

Adding lights/ decorations to verge trees can create a warm, festive atmosphere. However, leaving them on for extended periods, using unsuitable lights, or installing lights and decorations incorrectly can seriously harm the tree's health by:

- Restricting natural growth and movement
- Potential damage to the cambial layer beneath the bark, which is essential for cell division and tree growth.
- Potential ring-barking by restricting sap flow
- Unnatural light at night may affect the life patterns of fauna living on or near the tree
- Trapping moisture, which can lead to disease
- Causing heat stress, particularly with non-LED lights
- Damaging bark and branches during installation or removal

To protect tree wellbeing, please adhere to the below:

- Lights/ decorations may remain for **no longer than eight (8) consecutive weeks**
- Use **LED solar-powered lights only**
- Attach (and remove) lights/ decorations in a way that does not harm the tree and allows for growth
- Maintain enough space to fit your hand between the cord or decorations and the tree—secure but not so loose that lights or decorations dangle and create a pedestrian hazard
- Ensure lights / decorations do not obstruct pathways or create trip hazards
- Install string lights only on branches **larger than 50 mm in diameter** and are strong enough to hold the weight of lights / decorations
- **No verge tree pruning is permitted.** All requests to prune verge trees should be submitted to the Town in writing.
- Decorations that can trap insects or birds are not permitted (e.g. artificial spider webs)



Acceptable Installation methods:

A combination of winding of light strings and flexible attachment materials, such as Velcro or UV durable insulation tape, is acceptable.

The following installation methods are not acceptable:

- cable ties
- staples
- screws / nails
- inflexible bands

Maintenance:

The Occupier must undertake regular inspections to ensure there are no faulty lights or wiring, no damage to the tree or shifted decorations creating a hazard. Any damaged or broken lights / decorations must be removed and appropriately disposed of immediately.

Removal:

If lights or decorations are installed incorrectly, causing damage to a tree (e.g., broken branches), pruning or other maintenance is required, installed for longer than eight (8) consecutive weeks, creates a safety hazard or for any other reason, the Town reserves the right to remove them at its discretion. The Town accepts no responsibility for any loss or damage resulting from such removal.