

Installation Instructions for Large Artificial Trees

READ ALL INSTRUCTIONS CAREFULLY BEFORE ATTEMPTING INSTALLATION!

Unloading

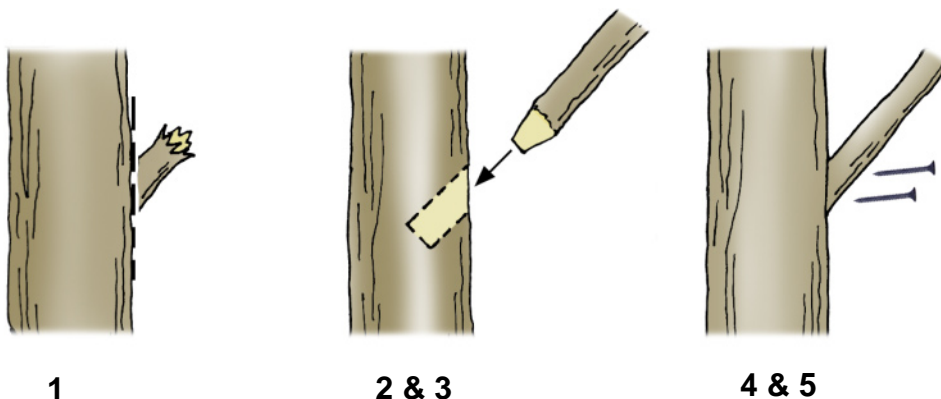
- Handle trunks with care. Make sure you don't drag the sections out of the truck – protect from scratching the bark.
- Handle the sections by the main limbs only. Do not carry them by the added plugs or branches.
- Do not carry them by the outer ends of the branches, they will not carry the weight.
- Use a pallet jack to bring the base(s) to the rear of the truck. A forklift may be required to lift the base out or down to the ground.
- Sections are heavy! Make sure you have enough people and equipment to handle the tree(s) safely.

Shaping

- Place the section(s) on the ground with the center side facing down. Open the plastic wrapping if applicable, and fluff the tree while it's on the ground. **Make sure to leave the tree labels on the trees until done, you will need them to match up the sections.**
- Inspect the tree for any possible broken branches. If any branches are broken, determine if that branch is needed. In most cases it can be removed.

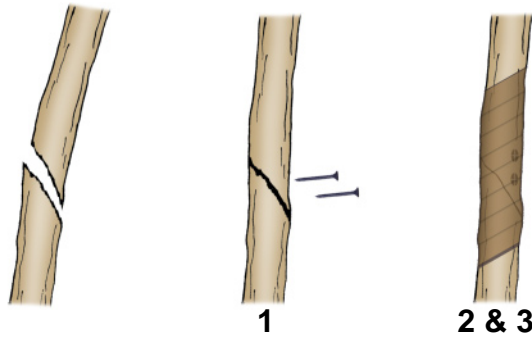
Broken Plug(s) - If needed

1. Trim the broken branch back flush to the main trunk.
2. Drill an appropriate size hole to fit the branch using a 1" or 1¼" spade bit.
3. Taper the branch to fit securely in the drilled hole.
4. Use Liquid Nail construction adhesive and drywall screws to secure it in place.
5. Fill the seams with Liquid Nail and paint to match.



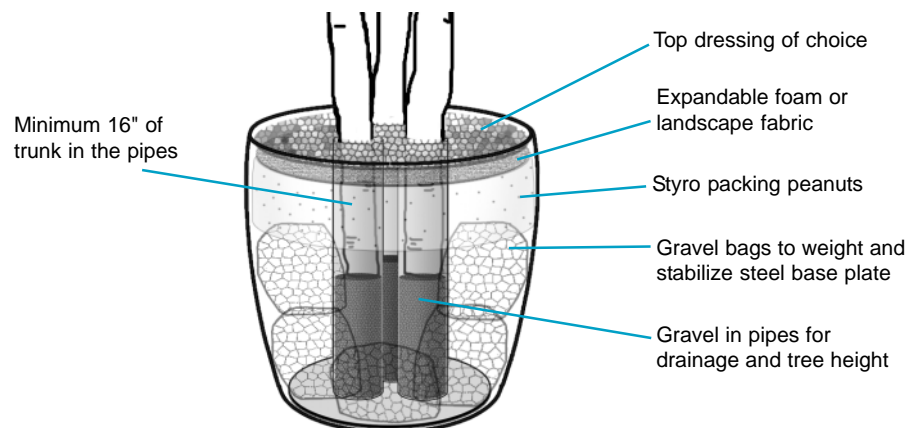
Split Limbs - If needed

1. Rejoin the two pieces if possible with Liquid Nail & screws.
2. Tightly wrap the joint with baling wire & wrap with floral tape.
3. Paint to match.



Setting Bases

- Match up the bases with the proper tree trunk sections. Tree trunks for tree #1 needs to go with base #1. (Unless all bases and trees are identical.)
- Use a tree Gantry or a forklift to set larger base(s). Steel bases weigh approx. 150 to 200 lbs. and can usually be moved by hand. **USE CAUTION AND SAFE LIFTING PROCEDURES.**
- If setting a concrete base onto soil in a built-in or in-ground planter, a minimum of 4" of small hand-tamped packed gravel must be installed on top of the dirt under the base to prevent uneven settling and causing the base/tree to lean over time.
- Center the base into the planter or container. For steel bases, bags of gravel are installed on top of the base plate at this point. A small amount of gravel (2"– 3" at most) needs to be placed in the bottom of the pipes to act as a mini drain field in the event that water makes its way into the pipes. This keeps trunks from rotting. For tall container installs, more gravel may be needed to raise trunks to desired height. Never install trees with less than 16" of trunk in the pipe.
- The base needs to be oriented so that the pipe marked "A" is facing towards the most visible side. This will be the front of the tree or the best side.
- Make sure the base sits level & solid.



Placing Trunks

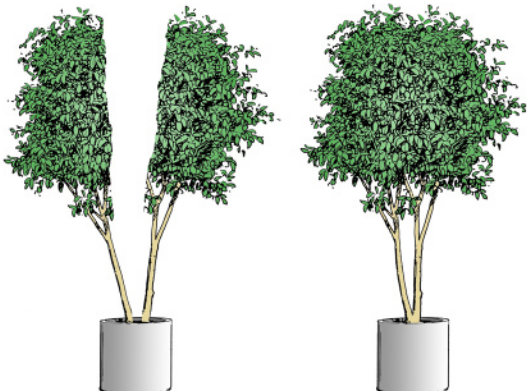
- Place section “A” into the pipe marked with the tree number and “A”. The tree trunk will need to be turned so that the foliage is facing outward. The lag bolt that is inserted into the side of the trunk needs to drop into the notch cut in the PVC pipe. This will make sure the tree is turned to the proper angle. Steel bases do not have a notch. Trunks installed in steel bases must be visually set for the best look.



- Make sure when installing a steel base that the base is secured with weight before trunks are installed.
- You will need 2-3 people to erect the trunks, and one person to hold back the bottom of the trunk or guide it into the pipe. Any trunk sections over 18' tall may require a piece of equipment to erect the trunk, i.e. aerial lift or fork lift. Care needs to be used so that all trunk sections can be handled safely with the crew on hand.
- If tree has multiple sections, place section “B” into the pipe marked “B” – to the left or the next clockwise position. Make sure that you face the section in the proper direction before fully placing it into the pipe.
- Repeat with sections C, D, & E if necessary.
- To fill extra space inside the container, packing peanuts can be used and then topped with landscape fabric or expandable foam, and then top-dressed with mulch, moss or decorative stone.

Shimming

- Position the trunks so that they form a uniform shaped tree.
- Start with section “A” – Loosely shim in place. Do not permanently secure in place until all trunks are positioned.
- Repeat with sections B – E if required.
- Stand back & check if all gaps are closed and the tree looks straight & natural.
- Repeat if needed.
- Finish securing shims – fill in the entire gap between the pipe and the tree trunk. Place the shims in an alternating position so that the shims have maximum contact with the trunk and the pipe (some pointing down & some pointing up).
- Hammer the shims in until they are tight, the tree should not be able to move. Then cut off the shim tops so they are now flush with the pipe.
- Any extra void between the trunk and pipe can be sealed with expandable foam (sold in cans) to help keep moisture from entering.

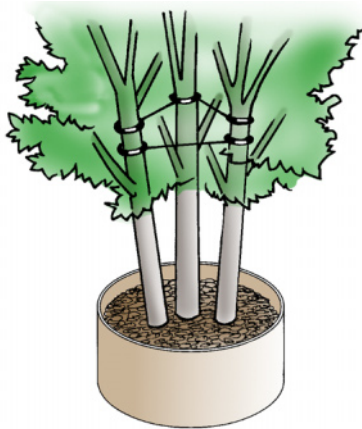


Final Fluffing

- Reshape the branches so they look natural.
- Some of the limbs may need to be supported with baling wire.
- Some branches may have become loose & need to be re-glued.

Cable the Trunks Together (supplied by Mall Silks)

- Install the 3/32" cable into the head of the tree.
- Cable the main trunks together up above the foliage line so that it is not seen.
- If desired, paint the cable so that it blends into the trunks & foliage.
- The cable acts as an extra safety device. Should one trunk become compromised the other trunks will hold it in place until the tree can be properly repaired or replaced.



Install cables *above* the foliage line as shown, in order to camouflage them in the tree canopy.

Installation note

- These instructions are intended as a guideline for most installations. You will need to confirm which tools, equipment, and supplies are required on your project since all projects have different characteristics. Please work with Mall Silks to obtain detailed specs and other information specific to your project.

Cleaning / Inspection

- If trees are topically fire retarded, you will need to check with us on which silk cleaners can be used on your fire retarded foliage. Some fire retarded foliage may need to be re-treated periodically to retain effectiveness.
- When cleaning the trees, care must be used so that excess cleaning solutions / water is not allowed to collect in the decorative container or garden. If any water collects in these areas it needs to be drained immediately.
- Mall Silks provides cleaning services for large artificial trees. Please contact us for more information on subcontracting us for cleaning of silk or preserved trees. This service extends the life of the silk foliage & keeps them looking great. We recommend that a thorough silk cleaning be done at least once a year.
- In addition to cleaning and checking fire retardancy, the tree limbs and trunks should be visually inspected on a regular basis. This will prevent any possible safety hazards as the trunks age. Damaged or decaying trunks should be replaced as soon as possible. Contact Mall Silks for information regarding replacement limbs and trunks.

Combination Plantings - Live & Silk Plants

- Routine inspections are needed to assure that no excess water has collected in the bottom of the container and/or garden. If any water collects in these areas it needs to be drained immediately.
- We recommend that plant saucers be used under the grow pots for live plants in order to catch excess from watering the plants.