



In 1850s, German company Lauscha, based in Thuringia, began to produce shaped glass bead garlands for Christmas trees. They also introduced the Rauschgoldengel, the 'Tingled-angel', dressed in pure gilded tin. The glass ornaments reached Britain in the 1870s, and North America around 1880.

In 1882, ornaments were complimented by electric Christmas lights. Edward Johnson, a colleague of Thomas Edison, lit a Christmas tree with a string of 80 small electric light bulbs which he had made himself. By 1890, the Christmas light strings were mass-produced. By 1900, stores put up large illuminated trees to lure the customers.

When to put up the Christmas tree

Traditionally, Christmas trees are put up 12 days before Christmas day, thus on the December 13th, and taken down 12 days after Christmas. But some put up the Christmas tree on December 6th in honor of the day Saint Nicholas died and take it down on Epiphany, January 6th. In Catholic tradition, Christmas trees are put up after noon on Christmas eve.

Modern tradition is to put up the Christmas tree the day after **Thanksgiving** (which is the fourth Thursday in November), thus on Black Friday, one of the world's busiest shopping days.

Christmas factoids

Christmas tree angels were introduced in the 1850s.

In 1851, Mark Carr hauled two sleds loaded with trees from the Catskills to the streets of New York and opened the first retail tree lot in the US.