



**One of the biggest threats to young trees during the winter is not the cold but the sun. Here in Denver, it's not uncommon for us to have long, dry stretches with hot sun and high temperatures between November and March. During these times, trees are especially susceptible to sunscald. Old trees with thick bark are usually OK, but young, thin-skinned trees like honey locusts, fruit trees, ashes, oaks, maples, lindens and willows are likely to need some extra protection. When exposed to intense sunlight, their bark cells heat up. Because the young cells aren't used to such temperatures, they are easily injured or killed. The dead bark turns dark and splits open. This often happens on the southwest side of the tree. There are several reasons why trees are more vulnerable to sunscald during the winter. First, the sun shines at a lower angle in the sky during the season. Also, the tree has shed all of its leaves which were providing shade and protection to its trunk. The white snow that often covers the ground refracts sunlight up on the bark, too.**

**The good news is that unless the tree is extremely damaged, there's a good chance it will recover. Just keep watering and feeding the tree to encourage new growth. The even better news is that preventing sunscald is easy. Wrapping your young trees in the fall is an effective way to insulate the bark and protect it from sunscald during the winter. Here's an easy guide to follow when wrapping your trees.**

## **Materials:**

**1 Roll of Tree Wrap Tape**



**1. Start at the bottom of the tree and slowly work your way up.**



**2. Overlap each wrap just a little bit so you cover all the bark.**



**3. Wrap up to just above the lowest branches.**



- 4. Tear off the wrap and secure with tape. Be sure not to tape the bark.**  
**5. In the spring remove the wrap. You may need to wrap young trees for several winters until they've developed thick enough bark.**

*Info from CSU Extension and The Ortho Problem Solver*