



Check out a man's wardrobe, notice the colors and textures that he likes best and pick the tie to suit his personality

## Achoo — it's Christmas

Christmas trees can produce wheezing, says Dr. Paul J. Munzenberger, chairman of the Child Lung Health Committee of the American Lung Association of Southeastern Michigan (ALASEM).

For more than 2 million children under the age of 17 who have asthma, the Christmas season harbors a number of allergens that can bring on an attack.

First is the 'seemingly harmless' Christmas tree. Mold often begins to accumulate on the branches especially if the tree has been cut several weeks before. When the tree begins to dry out, the mold spores are released. The spores

are an allergen for many people, says Munzenberger.

"Be sure to pick your gifts for the asthma sufferer carefully," Munzenberger adds. "Pets often are poor gifts, since their skin flakes and fur are highly allergenic. Stuffed toy animals, too, can produce an episode. They retain dust and can become a home for the house dust mite."

The Lung Association warns that all clothing should be washed before it is put on for the first time. The finishing materials used by the manufacturer can be potent allergens.

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