

Home Holiday Safety Tips



Holiday Lights and Ornaments

Use only UL approved lighting. Inspect holiday lights each year for frayed wires, bare spots, gaps in insulation, and broken or cracked wiring or plugs. Light sets and all wiring and cords should be replaced every five years. Use of extension cords should be minimized and these should also be replaced every five years. Do not plug too many sets of lights into an outlet or extension cord as this will overload the circuit and may cause a fire. Turn off all holiday lights whenever you leave your home. Never use candles on either a natural or artificial tree.

(You should never plug more than 3 sets of lights into the same plug)

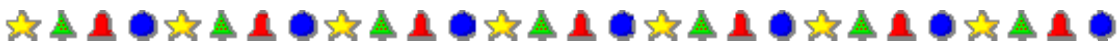
Avoid placing small or breakable ornaments on lower branches where children or pets can reach them and knock them off. Every year many children and pets are treated for cuts from broken ornaments or from swallowing broken pieces and small parts. If possible, try to use non-flammable or flame retardant ornaments and decorations.

To decorate the outside of your home, use lights and extension cords approved for outdoor use. Never plug more than three sets of lights into one extension cord or from end to end.



Candles

Make sure all candles are in stable holders and place them where they cannot be easily knocked down. Never leave the house with candles burning. Do not go near a holiday tree with any type of candle. Some candles do emit toxins such as acetone, benzene, and lead. Although released in small amounts, play it safe by keeping them in well-ventilated places where the fumes can easily escape.



Fireplaces

Before starting a fire, make sure you remove all decorations from the area and be sure that the flue is open. Do not burn wrapping paper or tree boughs. These can burn extremely fast and throw off sparks. In addition, burning wrapping paper can release toxic fumes.

