

# Home Holiday Safety Tips

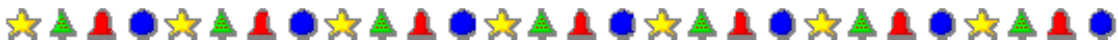


## Pet Safety

Holiday treats can poison your pet; chocolate is toxic to both cats and dogs, and other candies and candy wrappers can cause your pet to choke or have digestive tract blockages. Make sure that all candy is kept away from your pets and immediately throw candy wrappers in a covered trash can.

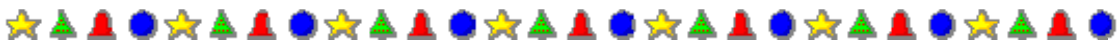
Candles, electric lights, and light-up decorations can all be harmful to your pet. A pet can easily overturn a candle which could start a fire in your home. Animals chewing on electric cords can be killed or suffer painful and irreversible neurological damage. Make sure candles are never left unattended and that all cords are tucked under or behind furniture as much as possible.

Certain holiday plants such as poinsettias can also harm your pet. Before bringing decorative plants or flowers into your home for the holidays, consult your vet if you are not sure whether they are poisonous to your pets.



## Toy Safety

Toys should always be matched to a child's abilities. A toy that is too advanced or too simple for a child may be misused, which can cause injuries. All toy parts should be larger than the child's mouth to prevent injuries, including choking. To avoid risk of serious eye injury, avoid toys that shoot small objects into the air. Look for sturdy toy construction; the eyes, nose, and other small parts on soft toys and stuffed animals should be securely fastened onto the toy. In addition, avoid toys with sharp edges.



## Home Safe Home for the Holidays

Each home should have working and tested smoke and carbon monoxide detectors; one of each unit inside and outside all bedrooms and one on every floor. Always have at least one 10 lb. ABC fire extinguisher in an accessible place in the house and place a small ABC fire extinguisher in the kitchen. At least two fire drills should be conducted during the year. Your home should also be evaluated for child safety hazards (e.g. chemicals stored under sink, loose electrical outlets, hanging or dangling cords, etc.). Emergency phone numbers should be posted and children should be familiar with the use of 911 as well as the direct number to the Fire Department.

Be sure to take safety precautions this holiday season. By following these holiday guidelines, you will be keeping your home safe for you and your family. I want to wish you all happiness, peace, good health, and joy during the holiday season!

All of these Safety Tips are just recommendations and you should always check with your Doctor and the experts in the related field/topic.