



CONSUMER NEWS

Office of Consumer Affairs

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Decorating Safety Tips for the Holiday Season

Outdoor and indoor holiday decorations, like candles, lights and Christmas trees, add to the spirit of the season. But when these decorations are not used properly, they can cause fires and injuries. While making your house look festive and fun, follow these safety tips to ensure a happy holiday season.

- ❄️ **INSTALL** a smoke detector or new batteries in the one(s) you have and **TEST** it.
- ❄️ **INSTALL** a carbon monoxide detector or new batteries in the one you have and **TEST** it.
- ❄️ **EXAMINE** light strings each year, discard worn ones. Fasten the bulbs securely and point the sockets down to avoid moisture build up. Unplug light strings before replacing a bulb. Never use indoor extension cords or indoor lights outside and keep outdoor electrical connectors above ground.
- ❄️ **USE** miniature lights on a tree or indoor decorations – which have cool-burning bulbs. Connect **NO MORE** than three strands together. **AVOID** overloading wall outlets and extension cords.
- ❄️ **NEVER** use candles on a tree, near evergreens or around paper or artificial decorations.
- ❄️ **ALWAYS** place candles where they **CAN NOT** be knocked over. **REMEMBER** to blow them out before leaving home or going to bed.
- ❄️ **PLACE** tree away from floor heaters, fireplaces, radiators or other heat sources. Cut off 1-2 inches of the trunk to expose fresh wood for better water absorption. **SECURE** the tree to keep from tipping using fishing line tied to a wall hook or ceiling. **KEEP** the stand filled with water while the tree is indoors by checking it daily. Place a tree skirt around the base of the tree to keep toddlers or pets away from the stand.
- ❄️ **DO NOT** place breakable ornaments or ornaments with very small pieces or other trimmings around the bottom of the tree. Toddlers and pets are curious, broken ornaments can cause injury or possible choking hazard.
- ❄️ **TURN OFF ALL** indoor Christmas lights before leaving home or going to bed.
- ❄️ **BEFORE** lighting a fire, check to see that the flue is open. **DO NOT** burn paper in the fireplace. A flash fire may result as wrappings ignite suddenly and burn intensely.

HAVE A SAFE AND ENJOYABLE HOLIDAY SEASON!