



HOLIDAY SAFETY FACTS

- Take all the usual fire safety precautions. Check all smoke alarms, install carbon monoxide detectors, have chimneys, fireplaces and central heating units inspected by professionals. Make sure escape routes are not blocked.
- Never leave children unattended where holiday hazards are present, particularly in homes that are unfamiliar.
- Keep all trees and greenery away from heat sources.
- Artificial trees are cleaner and safer. Make sure the tree is fire retardant and has been UL approved.
- Metal trees are not fire hazards unless improperly used. Only illuminate with flood lights, never electric lights which can cause a severe shock, start a fire or be damaged by the sharp metal edges of the tree. Place the flood lights up out of the reach of children and away from anything that can burn.
- Living trees purchased from landscape nurseries are intended to be replanted and come wrapped in burlap to protect the roots. While outdoors, keep it in a tub of water. Water daily when moved indoors. Keep watered when taken back outdoors until planted in the spring.
- Natural trees are trees that are cut. The freshest trees are the ones you cut yourself. To avoid a potential fire hazard, choose a fresh tree that has good color, has needles that are hard to pull from branches, has needles that bend and then break when bent between your thumb and index finger, has sticky resin on the butt of the trunk and does not drop a lot of needles when its trunk is bounced on the ground.
- Keep a real tree outside until you are ready to decorate it. Use a stand that is appropriate for the tree. Cut 1 – 2 inches off the trunk to help absorb the water. Make sure your tree stand can hold at least 1 gallon of water. Mix in a commercial preservative. Check the water level every day. Secure the tree to the wall or ceiling with wire or string to keep it from tipping.
- When the needles start to fall off in large quantities, the tree is a fire hazard. Dispose of it immediately by putting it in a tree bag and leave it for pickup with your local service.
- Breakable ornaments or those with small parts and metal hooks should be placed out of reach. Older ornaments which may be decorated with lead paint are a hazard to children and pets.
- Only decorate with flame resistant materials.
- Avoid decorations that resemble candy or food that could be tempting to a child.
- Keep 'bubbling' lights out of reach. They contain hazardous chemicals if swallowed.
- Only use non-toxic spray snow in well-ventilated areas. Wear gloves when working with spun glass angel hair to keep from irritating the eyes and skin. Use away from children and pets.

- All lights should have the UL approved label. Use a sturdy ladder on a solid surface.
- Inspect each string of lights (new and old) for broken or cracked sockets, frayed or bare wires, loose connections and loose or missing bulbs. Throw out or repair any damaged sets.
- Unplug lights before replacing any bulbs. Read the packaging for proper wattage and voltage. Never connect more than 3 strings of lights together or on an extension cord.
- Do not staple or nail through electrical cords. Never use extension cords under carpets, across doorways or pinched behind furniture.
- Never overload circuits. Protect all electrical connections from water.
- Metal tinsel can cause a short or a fire if touching electrical lights or wiring and can be dangerous if swallowed by children or pets.
- Unplug all Christmas lights when you leave or go to bed. Never pull the cord to unplug.
- Remove outdoor lighting when the season is over. These lights are not designed for prolonged exposure to the elements.
- Never decorate a tree with real candles.
- Never burn wrapping paper or Christmas trees in a fireplace. They burn too quickly and can create a chemical buildup inside the chimney or throw off sparks that cause a fire.
- Remove all stockings, decorations and greens in front of the fireplace and from the mantle before starting a fire.
- Keep toxic fire salts away from children and pets.
- Only use candles in non-tip holders away from greenery, curtains and other flammable items.
- Extinguish candles when leaving a room.
- All electrical toys should be UL approve and never used near water.
- When cooking, keep pot handles turned inward and keep hot drinks and food away from the edge of tables and counters.
- Store choking hazards such as hard candies and nuts out of the reach of children.
- Batteries are toxic. Keep them out of the reach of children and pets.
- Keep chocolate out of the reach of pets.
- Poisonous plants such as mistletoe, poinsettias, holly berries and ivy should be kept up out of the reach of children and pets.
- Provide smokers with large, deep, non-tip ashtrays. Make sure they are emptied often and that the butts are completely out before disposing. Check all furniture and wastebaskets for smoldering cigarettes.

