

Holiday Safety

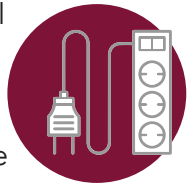


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During the hustle and bustle, remember to make safety a priority to help ensure that nothing spoils the fun, and make your holiday a happy one. During the holiday season your home may see increased traffic, including children and pets.

Decorating Tips

- ◇ Make sure all electric cords are out of high-traffic pathways and areas. Do not run cords through doorways or hide them under rugs or carpets. Do not let children or pets play with light strands or electrical decorations.
- ◇ Turn off decorative holiday lights before going to bed or leaving home. A timer can help make sure this happens.
- ◇ Do not overload extension cords or outlets. Electric overloads can cause shocks and start fires.
- ◇ Fresh-cut trees as well as artificial ones should be placed away from heat sources such as registers, fireplaces, radiators, and televisions; and water a fresh-cut tree frequently.



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- ◇ Read the package instructions to make sure you're using the right light for indoor or outdoor use. **Never exceed the recommended wattage.**
- ◇ Read the manufacturers' instructions for connecting indoor and outdoor lights. Usually no more than three light strands can be safely connected.
- ◇ Make sure bulbs don't touch supply cords, wires, cloth, paper, or other materials.
- ◇ Use the proper clips for securing lights and decorations. Never use staples and nails - they can damage electrical cords!
- ◇ Check for overhead powerlines before using a ladder outside or when hanging lights on trees.
- ◇ Keep an eye on pets who may chew or damage electrical cords.
- ◇ Take down decorations when the holidays are over. They aren't designed for year-round use and can deteriorate overtime.



Kitchen Safety



- ◇ Keep cooking areas clean and clear of grease.
- ◇ Do not leave combustible items, such as towels or potholders, near the stove top.
- ◇ Stay focused and attentive to baking, brewing, and simmering foods.
- ◇ Never plug more than one high-wattage appliance into a single outlet.
- ◇ Make sure outlets near sinks are equipped with Ground Fault Circuit Interrupters (GFCI).
- ◇ Always have a working fire extinguisher on hand and know how to operate it.

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