

# Safe Holiday Decorating

-  Plan your display according to the number and location of available outlets and avoid overloading electrical outlets.
-  Secure lights, decorations and cords to prevent wind damage. Never staple, nail through or fasten electrical wires or extensions cords in any way that might damage the wire or insulation.
-  Any lights you use outdoors must be labeled suitable for exterior placement, and be sure to plug them into a ground-fault circuit interrupter protected receptacle.
-  Carefully inspect all lights and decorations for cracks, damaged sockets and loose or bare wires prior to use.
-  When stringing lights and decorations above your normal reach, make sure you use a proper ladder with someone supporting the base. Use wooden or fiberglass ladders when putting up electrical décor and lights outside as metal ladders conduct electricity.
-  Keep electric cords out of high-traffic pathways and areas. Don't run cords through doorways or hide them under rugs or carpets.
-  Bedtime means lights off! Don't forget to turn off your Christmas tree lights each night.
-  Always place your tree away from heat sources like fireplaces, radiators, candles, heat vents or lights, and keep the tree base filled with water to avoid a dry out.
-  Keep all your holiday candles away from your Christmas tree, surrounding furniture and décor.
-  Do not put candles in places where they might be easily knocked over, and never leave a lit candle unattended. Extinguish all candles before leaving a room or going to bed.
-  If possible, use battery-operated candles in place of traditional candles to avoid the hazards of an open flame.
-  If you have fragile ornaments, place them out of reach from pets and kids.
-  Avoid decorations that look like candy or food if you have young children or pets in the house.
-  While festive, poinsettias are poisonous when eaten, so keep them out of reach of kids and pets.
-  Keep batteries stored safely in their packaging and out of reach of anyone that might try to eat them, like small children and pets. Eating a battery can be deadly.

  For more holiday safety tips, check out our    
24 Days of Holiday Safety @ [www.naperville.il.us/asafernaper](http://www.naperville.il.us/asafernaper)