



Stay Safe This Holiday

10 Tips for Safe Holiday Decorating!

1. Lights are rated for indoor or outdoor use. Read the package instructions, and never exceed the recommended wattage.
2. Buy decorations with the mark of an accredited certification agency. Visit esasafe.com for a full listing.
3. No more than three light strings can be safely connected together in most cases. Read the manufacturers' instructions for directions.
4. Make sure bulbs don't touch supply cords, wires, cloth, paper, or any other material.
5. Use the proper clips for securing lights and decorations. Never use staples and nails—they can damage electrical cords!
6. Check for overhead powerlines before using a ladder outside or when you're hanging lights on trees.
7. Watch that children don't put electrical decorations or cords in their mouths.
8. Keep an eye on pets—they may chew or damage electrical cords.
9. Turn off holiday lights and decorations when you leave the house or go to bed.
10. Holiday decorations aren't designed for year-round use and can deteriorate over time. Take them down when the holidays are over.

Your Holiday Checklist for Extension Cords, Plugs and Outlets:

- Inspect and replace damaged electrical products.
- Avoid plugging too many decorations into an outlet. Overloaded circuits can start a fire.
- Use GFCI-protected receptacles to protect you from shock when plugging in outdoors.
- Make sure your outdoor receptacle has a special cover to help protect it against the elements, even when a cord is left plugged in.
- Never remove the third prong on plugs—this "grounding pin" prevents shock in the event of electrical equipment failure.
- Don't run extension cords under carpets or rugs, through doorways, or in places where they can be damaged by furniture.
- Keep outdoor connections above ground and out of puddles; don't run them across driveways or walkways.

Remember to light up safely over the holidays! For more holiday safety tips, visit esasafe.com/holidaysafety.



Christmas Tree Safety



As you deck the halls this holiday season, be fire smart. A small fire that spreads to a Christmas tree can grow large very quickly.



PICKING THE TREE

- Choose a tree with fresh, green needles that do not fall off when touched.



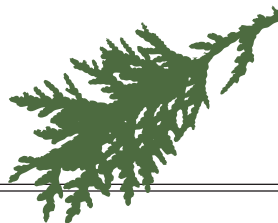
PLACING THE TREE

- Before placing the tree in the stand, cut 5 centimetres from the base of the trunk.
- Make sure the tree is at least one metre away from any heat source, like fireplaces, radiators, candles, heat vents or lights.
- Make sure the tree is not blocking an exit.
- Add water to the tree stand. Be sure to add water daily.



LIGHTING THE TREE

- Use lights that have the label of a recognized testing laboratory. Some lights are only for indoor or outdoor use.
- Replace any string of lights with worn or broken cords or loose bulb connections. Read manufacturer's instructions for number of light strands to connect.
- Never use lit candles to decorate the tree.
- Always turn off Christmas tree lights before leaving home or going to bed.



After Christmas

Get rid of the tree after Christmas or when it is dry. Dried-out trees are a fire danger and should not be left in the home or garage, or placed outside against the home.

Check with your local community to find a recycling program.

Bring outdoor electrical lights inside after the holidays to prevent hazards and make them last longer.

FACTS

- ! **One** of every three home Christmas tree fires is caused by electrical problems.
- ! Although Christmas tree fires are not common, when they do occur, they are more likely to be serious.
- ! A heat source too close to the tree causes roughly **one in every four** of the fires.



NATIONAL FIRE PROTECTION ASSOCIATION

The leading information and knowledge resource on fire, electrical and related hazards

HOLIDAY SHOPPING CHECKLIST



The festive season is fast approaching and Ontario residents will soon be busy decorating their homes for the holidays. When starting your holiday décor shopping for lighting, decorations or gifts, keep electrical safety in mind by using this checklist.

Before You Shop

- Examine last year's decorations for signs of wear and tear.
- Replace damaged electrical products including cords, lights and decorations with new ones.

Shopping List

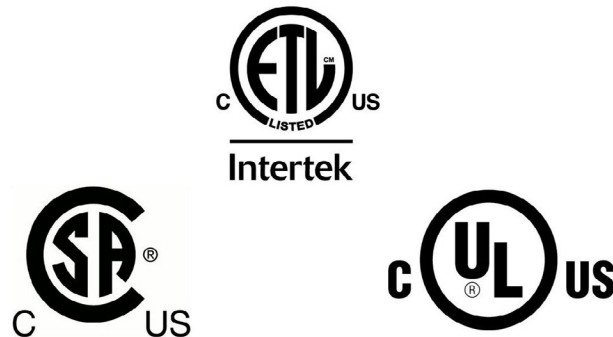
Indoor

- Tree lights
- Indoor lights/decorations
- Extension cords
- Power bars
- Timers
- Storage bins

Outdoor

- Outdoor lights/decorations
- Extension cords
- Portable GFCIs
- Ladder

Ensure lights and extension cords are approved for use in Ontario and are rated for where you're planning to use them, either indoors or outdoors. Look for the mark of an accredited certification agency – see the complete list at [esasafe.com](https://www.esasafe.com). This shows they've been tested and meet safety standards.



Gift Buying

If you decide to buy electronics for someone special on your holiday gift giving list, make sure:

- Electronic gifts have been purchased from reputable retail outlets.
 - They bear the mark of an accredited certification agency.
- Visit [esasafe.com/electricalproducts/marks](https://www.esasafe.com/electricalproducts/marks) for a complete list.

Remember:

- ★ Watch that children don't put electrical decorations or cords in their mouths.
- ★ Keep an eye on pets that may chew or damage electrical cords.
- ★ Never remove the third-prong from any electrical product – this is a “grounding pin” that works to prevent electric shock in the event of electrical equipment failure.
- ★ Before turning in for bed and when leaving the house, turn off or unplug holiday lights and electrical decorations.