



Safe Holiday Lighting Tips

To ensure that your holiday season is safe from electrical hazards, follow these safety tips:

- Before decorating, read and follow the manufacturers' instructions for installation and maintenance of all decorative electrical products.
- Indoors and out, use lights and other electrical decorations certified by a recognized independent testing laboratory, such as CSA, UL, or ETL.
- Outdoors, use lights and other electrical decorations certified for outdoor use.
- Carefully inspect each decoration before plugging into an outlet. Cracked, frayed, loose or bare wires, and loose connections may cause a serious electric shock or start a fire. Replace damaged items.
- Always unplug an electrical decoration before replacing bulbs or fuses.
- Don't mount or support light strings in any way that might damage the cord's insulation.
- Never nail or staple light strings or extension cords.
- Do not connect more than three light strings together.
- Light strings with screw-in bulbs should have no more than 50 bulbs connected together.
- Don't overload extension cords – they can overheat and start a fire. Keep all outdoor extension cords and light strings clear of snow and standing water, and well protected from weather.
- Use caution when decorating near power lines. Contact with a high-voltage line could lead to electrocution.
- Never use electric lights on a metallic tree. The tree can become charged with electricity from faulty lights, and a person touching a branch could be electrocuted.
- Don't allow children or pets to play with electrical decorations. Even small lights can produce a deadly electric shock if misused.
- Turn off all electrical decorations before leaving home or going to bed.
- Plug outdoor electric lights and decorations into circuits protected by ground fault circuit interrupters (GFCIs).

For more electrical safety information, visit www.electrical-safety.org