



# SAFE DECORATING FOR THE HOLIDAYS

## HOLIDAY DECORATIONS

- All decorations should be nonflammable or flame-retardant.
- Decorations should not be placed near heat sources.
- Do not burn wrapping paper in the fireplace.

## CANDLES

- Battery operated candles are beautiful and safe.
- Candles should only be used under adult supervision.
- Candles should be placed where they cannot easily be knocked over.
- Candles should always be out of reach of children.
- Never leave candles unattended.
- Never put lit candles on a tree.

## CHRISTMAS TREES

- If using an artificial tree, make sure it is flame-retardant.
- If you select a live tree, select a fresh tree, which will have green needles that do not easily fall off.
- Keep the tree stand filled with water at all times.
- A live tree should only be used until it dries out, usually two weeks or less.
- Do not place the tree close to a heat source, including a fireplace, which can dry out the tree quicker.
- Do not go near a Christmas tree with an open flame — candles, lighters or matches.

## HOLIDAY LIGHTS

- Check any lights you are reusing for frayed wires, bare spots, broken or cracked parts, or excessive wear, and follow all instructions that accompany holiday lights.
- Never overload electrical outlets.
- Make sure to frequently check lights from becoming too hot.
- Never leave holiday lights on unattended.
- Keep all cords out of reach of children.
- If using an extension cord, make sure you follow instructions for its use and do not overload it.
- When using lights outdoors, make sure the lights have been certified for outdoor use.

And no matter the season, always have working smoke alarms and carbon monoxide alarms installed on every level of your home.

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**References:**

[http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/citizens/home\\_fire\\_prev/holiday-seasonal/holiday.shtm](http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/citizens/home_fire_prev/holiday-seasonal/holiday.shtm)

<http://www.nfpa.org/categoryList.asp?categoryID=301&URL=Safety%20Information/For%20consumers/Holidays/Winter/holiday%20safety>

<http://www.cpsc.gov/CPSCPUB/PREREL/prhtml10/10065.html>