

Christmas Safety Tips

Christmas Tree Safety

Consider an artificial tree (they are much safer and cleaner).



- A real tree should not lose green needles when you tap it on the ground.
- Cut 1 inch off the trunk to help absorb water.
- Leave the tree outside until ready to decorate.
- The stand should hold at least 1 gal. of water.
- A 6' tree will use 1 gallon of water every two days.
- Mix a commercial preservative with the water.
- Check the water level every day.
- Secure the tree with wire to keep it from tipping.
- Keep tree away from floor heaters, fire places, or other heat sources.
- Use only UL-listed lights, and no more than 3 strands linked together.
- Use miniature lights--which have cool-burning bulbs.
- Turn off the Christmas lights when you sleep, or if you leave your home for very long.
- Never use candles, even on artificial trees.
- Clean the tree stand to improve the tree's water intake, use one capful of bleach to a cup of water.
- Dispose of the tree properly.

NEVER BURN A REAL TREE IN THE FIREPLACE.

Home Safety



- Install a smoke detector or new batteries in the one(s) you have and TEST it.
- Use only outdoor lights outside your home.
- Examine light strings each year, discard worn ones.
- Fasten the bulbs securely and point the sockets down to avoid moisture build up.
- Connect no more than three strands together.
- Never use indoor extension cords outside.
- Avoid overloading wall outlets and extension cords.
- Keep outdoor electrical connectors above ground and out of puddles and snow.
- Unplug light string before replacing a bulb. Review the original package to verify proper wattage and voltage.
- When connecting light strands, wrap a plastic bag around connections and tie ends with teflon tape.
- Never use electric lights on a metallic tree, use colored spot lights.
- Make sure trees hung with X-mas lights are not touching power lines.
- When using candles, place them a safe distance from combustibles.
- Place candles in sturdy containers. Remember, hot wax burns kids.
- Extinguish candles prior to going to bed.
- Dispose of fireplace ashes into a metal container until cold.
- After parties, check around and under sofa and chair cushions for smoldering cigarettes. (Provide lots of ash trays)
- Install at least one carbon monoxide detector in your home.
- Have an operable fire extinguisher readily available.

"Safety" gift ideas

Put together a gift basket containing one or more of the following items:

- Three smoke detectors and batteries.
- A quality fire extinguisher.
- A flashlight and batteries or light sticks.
- A first-aid kit.
- A carbon Monoxide detector.
- A mobile phone.
- A second floor escape ladder.
- "Emergency kit"- energy bars, water, battery radio, flashlight/light sticks and a first-aid kit packed in a small travel bag.

