



Safety with holiday lighting

- ◆ Make sure that the lights you use have been tested and are listed by a reputable company such as Underwriters Laboratories (UL) or Intertek (ETL).
- ◆ Always follow the manufacturer's guidelines when hanging holiday lights.
- ◆ Use outdoor holiday lights outdoors and indoor holiday lights indoors. Outdoor holiday lights can burn hotter than indoor holiday lights.
- ◆ All outdoor holiday lights and electrical decorations should be plugged into a ground-fault circuit interrupter.
- ◆ Avoid overloading electrical circuits with your holiday lights – never string more than 3 sets of lights on an extension cord. Unplug holiday lights when you are not home and before going to bed. Lights should not be located behind drapes or under carpets.
- ◆ Check your holiday lights for loose or cracked sockets and connections, exposed wires, and broken, frayed, or scorched insulation. Discard lights showing signs of damage.
- ◆ Put your lights on a nonflammable surface and plug them in for 10 to 15 minutes to check for smoking, overheating, or melting. Throw away any lights showing signs of damage.
- ◆ Only use holiday lights with fuses in plugs.
- ◆ Replace burnt out lights with bulbs of the same wattage.
- ◆ Holiday lights should not be pulled tightly when being strung up. This can stress the cord and cause it to fray. Holiday lights should be wrapped loosely for this reason.
- ◆ Never hang holiday lights on a metal Christmas tree. The tree can short out holiday lights and start a fire. The tree can also become charged with electricity and start a fire.
- ◆ Use insulated holders to string up lights instead of tacks, nails, or staples.
- ◆ Do not staple lights in place as you can puncture the insulation around the light string and create a safety hazard.
- ◆ Do not hang lights near potential fire hazards, including paper or flammable materials.
- ◆ Take holiday lights down at the end of the season as they are intended for temporary use.
- ◆ Do not hang lights near power lines or feeder lines.
- ◆ Consider purchasing mini string lights or LED string lights in place of traditional incandescent string lights as these lights burn less hot than traditional incandescent string lights and can pose less of a risk of a fire hazard. LED string lights use much less energy – up to 87% less – than traditional incandescent string lights and can save you money on your energy bill.