

Top 10 Safe Holiday Decorating Tips

- 1** Read package instructions to make sure you have the right lights for indoor or outdoor use. Never exceed recommended wattage.
- 2** Buy decorations with the mark of an accredited certification agency. [Click here for a full list of marks.](#)
- 3** Read manufacturers' instructions for connecting. Usually no more than three light strings can be safely connected.
- 4** Make sure bulbs don't touch supply cords, wires, cloth, paper, or other materials.
- 5** Use proper clips for securing lights and decorations. Never use staples or nails, as they can damage electrical cords.
- 6** Check for overhead powerlines before using a ladder outside or when hanging lights on trees. Stay at least 3 metres away.
- 7** Don't allow children to play with electrical decorations or cords.
- 8** Watch for pets who may chew or damage electrical cords.
- 9** Turn off holiday lights and decorations when you go out or go to bed.
- 10** Take down decorations when the holidays are over. They aren't designed for year-round use and can deteriorate over time.

EXTENSION CORDS, PLUGS, AND OUTLETS

- Inspect and replace damaged electrical items.
- Avoid overloading outlets as too many decorations can cause fires.
- Use Ground Fault Circuit Interrupters (GFCIs) outlets for outdoor setups to prevent shock.
- Ensure outdoor outlets have weatherproof covers, even with cords plugged in.
- Never remove the third prong on plugs as it prevents shock.
- Don't run extension cords under rugs, through doorways, or near furniture.
- Keep outdoor cords off the ground and away from puddles, driveways, and walkways.
- Use lights and cords approved for use in Ontario. Look for certification marks.



Your Holiday Shopping Checklist

Electrical Safety First

BEFORE YOU START

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



Ensure lights and extension cords are approved for use in Ontario and are rated for either indoors or outdoors (where you plan to use them). Look for the mark of an accredited certification agency. This shows they've been tested and meet safety standards.

[Click here for a complete list.](#)

SHOPPING LIST

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

GIFT BUYING

If you decide to buy electronic gifts for others, make sure that they are purchased from reputable retail outlets, and, bear the mark of an accredited certification agency.



DON'T FORGET!

- Never let children play with or put electrical decorations or cords in their mouths.
- Keep an eye on pets, they might chew or damage electrical cords.
- Never remove the third prong from any electrical product. This grounding pin prevents electric shock.
- Turn off holiday lights and decorations when you leave the house or go to bed.

Visit [ESAsafe.com/HolidaySafety](https://www.ESAsafe.com/HolidaySafety) for more info.