

While most of the following Christmas safety tips are a matter of common sense and hopefully practiced by us all, we still have the ability to become complacent or distracted by the hustle and bustle of the Christmas season. We hope you will find these tips to be helpful reminders.

Tree and Lighting Safety

- **Use the Proper Lights** - If you hang lights outdoors make certain that they are rated for outdoor use. The packaging should clearly mark indoor/outdoor. The lights must be weatherproof or else they will short out and could be a hazard.
- **Get Grounded** - Outdoor lights should be connected to a grounded outlet and preferably one that is a GFCI type. The GFCI will help protect your lights from damage and you from shock or fire.
- **Hang Carefully** - When you are hanging lights stay away from using anything that may pierce the cords such as staples or nails. Instead opt for plastic clips or just wrap the cords around a nail or hook. These [string hooks](#) are perfect.
- **Replace Bulbs** - If you have any damaged bulbs replace them. It not only looks bad to hang lights that are out but it wastes energy. The broken glass can also be hazardous to small children and pets.
- **Avoid Heat** - Do not wrap lights around hot electric sources such as televisions or home theater/audio components. It's also wise to keep lights away from electric heaters, heat vents and anything that could damage the cords.
- **Watch Your Cords** - Take care when running cords outside. All cords and extension cables should be neatly tucked away and not a danger to someone tripping or pulling them by accident. If a cord doesn't reach don't use a shortcut, instead just buy another cord.
- **Ladder Safety** - Don't forget these [safety tips](#) when using your step or extension ladder. Consider a [hook helper](#) for hard to reach spots.
- **Set the Timer** - Use a timer to save energy and the most optimal setting right now is from dusk to 11pm. For outdoor lights make sure your timer is weatherproof.
- **Turn Off** - Turn off outdoor, indoor, and tree lights before you go to bed or before leaving your home. Put out any candles when leaving the room and before going to sleep. Keep space heaters away from the tree, presents, curtains, bedding materials, etc., or try not to use them. Remember to turn them off when not in use and before leaving your home.

Food Safety

[Poultry Preparation](#)

[Food Safety Fact Sheets](#)

Kid Safety

[Learn About](#)

[Other Christmas Tree Fire Hazards](#)

Bring Your Christmas Celebration to a Safe Conclusion

Take down and recycle your live Christmas tree.

After January 1st, even a tree that has been watered and tended to every day will become dried out and present a real fire hazard. A dry Christmas tree will explosively ignite and burn like an indoor forest fire.

The Underwriters Laboratories (UL) also reminds consumers to dispose of their real Christmas trees after four weeks. While none of us like to see the holiday festivities come to an end, it's far more important to protect your family and your home by taking down your dry tree.

Taking down Christmas lights safely

Make certain all lights are unplugged before handling them.

If stools or ladders are necessary make certain they are in good condition and on a solid footing, wear shoes that grip and will not slip on the ladder rungs, do not lean-out or reach beyond a safe balance point and have a friend or family member around to assist you as necessary, especially in case you fall.

Inspect the lights carefully for damage to help prevent a shock or fire hazard next year and properly prepare them for storage.

Please have a Very Merry & Safe Christmas!