



SAFETY INCENTIVE PROGRAM
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SIP TIP: Holiday Light Safety



Each year, accidents occur from the improper use and storage of holiday lights. Follow these tips to best protect yourself:

- 🔦 Take out your strings of light, carefully untangle them, and verify that each string of lights carries the official Underwriter's Laboratories (UL) label.
- 🔦 Take time to inspect your lights before plugging them in. Check for cracks in cord insulation or socket. Look for places where the wires are bare or broken. **Throw away suspect or damaged strings, regardless.**
- 🔦 Plug safe-looking strings into an electrical wall socket for 15 minutes and check for signs of melting or smoking wires.
- 🔦 Always unplug your lights before changing bulbs. Replace burnt out bulbs immediately. Always use replacement bulbs of the same voltage/wattage of the entire string.
- 🔦 Do not overload outlets. As a general rule, do not string together more than three indoor sets or two outdoor sets. If the cord gets hot while the lights are on, it is carrying too much load. Be aware of power drains from extra appliances and common circuits. Use different sockets around the house to plug in multiple lights to balance the load.
- 🔦 Be certain to shut off lights when you are asleep or not at home. Limit continuous usage of lights to avoid overheating.
- 🔦 Avoid cables becoming a tripping hazard.
- 🔦 Keep lights clear of decorations and other flammable materials.
- 🔦 Use a GFCI (Ground Fault Circuit Interrupter) for added protection against shock.
- 🔦 Do not use outdoor lights inside. These lights generate too much heat for indoor use. Don't use indoor lights outside because they are not supposed to get wet.



- 🔦 Don't run cords through doorways or under rugs. The insulation on the cords can become damaged if the door closes on the cord, or if people step on it under the rug.
- 🔦 When putting up lights make sure your ladder is on a flat surface and has a firm footing. Have someone on the ground to steady the ladder before climbing it.
- 🔦 Protect your pets by taping exposed cords to walls or floors to discourage them from chewing on them.
- 🔦 Never take batteries out of smoke alarms, even temporarily, to power holiday toys.

REMINDER:

OVERLOADED ELECTRIC OUTLETS AND FAULTY WIRES ARE THE MOST COMMON CAUSES OF HOLIDAY HOME FIRES