

MCLB ALBANY SAFETYGRAM



Holiday Decorations Safety



Every year, hospital emergency rooms treat about 12,500 people for injuries, such as falls, cuts and shocks, related to holiday decorations, trees and lights according to the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission. Keep the holiday decoration safety tips listed below in mind to keep your holidays a joyous occasion.

Decorations:

-  Place candles where they will not be knocked down.
-  Avoid sharp or breakable decorations.
-  Avoid trimmings that resemble candy or food that may tempt a child to eat.
-  Wear gloves to avoid eye and skin irritation while decorating with spun glass "angel hair."
-  Remove wrapping papers, bags, ribbons and bows from tree areas after gifts are opened.
-  Follow container directions to avoid lung irritation while decorating with artificial snow sprays.



Lights:

-  Check labels to ensure lights are for indoor or outdoor use.
-  Use plastic or holders designed to hold lights in place. Never use nails or tacks.
-  Never remove lights by pulling or tugging.
-  Check all tree lights for frayed wires, broken sockets or loose connections.
-  Plug all outdoor electric lights into circuits with ground fault circuit interrupters (GFCI).
-  Turn off all lights when you go to bed or leave home.
-  Use underwriters laboratory (UL) listed surge protectors and power strips for lights.
-  Use correct wattage light bulbs.

Trees:

-  Check for freshness when purchasing a live tree.
-  Place the tree away from fireplaces, radiators or portable heaters.
-  Place the tree out of the way of traffic and do not block doorways.
-  Keep live tree stand filled with water to prevent drying out.
-  Cut a few inches off the trunk of your tree to prevent drying out and becoming a fire hazard.
-  Use only non-combustible or flame-resistant materials to trim a tree.
-  Look for the label "Fire Resistant" when purchasing an artificial tree.



For additional information on holiday decoration safety, please visit <http://usgovinfo.about.com/library/weekly/blholidaysafety.htm>

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Prepared by: Stacey L. Williams

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