

# HOLIDAY SAFETY TIPS

## How to Hang Christmas Lights Safely

- **Practice ladder safety:** When hanging outdoor lights, use a sturdy ladder on level ground, and have a spotter.
- **Pick the right lights for the job:** Be sure to use lights that are designated as “outdoor” lights.
- **Inspect, repair or replace:** Each year, be sure to inspect, repair or replace your exterior holiday lights when you take them down and put them back up.

## Live Christmas Tree Safety

- **Select the right tree:** Cut or select a tree from a tree lot that is green and fragrant and that holds its needles.
- **Trim the tree:** Cut the bottom two inches of the trunk off to allow for better water absorption. Most sellers will do this for you.
- **Pick your placement:** Make sure the tree is not covering heat vents, blocking walkways or near flammable items.
- **Hydrate it:** Water the tree well after placement, and add water to the stand every day.

## Christmas Cooking Safety Tips

- **Keep kids safe:** Keep young children away from sharp, hot or flammable items in the kitchen.
- **Stay cool:** Keep hot pads on hand to protect from burns.
- **Safely store cords:** Using a slow cooker or mixer? Avoid accidents with children and pets by keeping small-appliance cords tucked safely behind the appliance.
- **Avoid food poisoning:** Cook all foods according to safe minimum cooking standards. Check out these guidelines from [foodsafety.gov](https://www.foodsafety.gov).

## Fire Safety During the Holidays

- **Lighting the tree:** Use a power strip to add additional strands, and unplug lights before going to bed or leaving the room.
- **Menorahs and kinaras:** Keep menorahs and kinaras at least three feet from flammable materials, and monitor pets and young children around open flames.
- **Holiday candles:** Use holiday candles sparingly, and never leave them unattended.
- **Fireplace safety:** Always use a fireplace screen and make sure the embers are extinguished before going to bed or leaving the house.

## Holiday Pet Safety Tips

- **Secure the tree:** Secure your Christmas tree and any large decorations to keep it from falling.
- **Keep fragile ornaments out of reach:** Hang only pet-safe, soft ornaments or plush toys at pet eye level.
- **Hide the snacks:** Keep holiday treats, like cookies and snack trays, out of reach of pets.
- **Know your pet:** If you’re hosting a party or having family visit, keep your pet’s comfort in mind. Give them a space to retreat to (like a bedroom) should they need a break from the action.



Make an appointment with  
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The holiday season is for spending time with friends and family – safely. Keep your home safe with our tips for spreading cheer and steering clear of accidental fires, foodborne illness and more. Need a deep clean before or after hosting? Need to recover from a burst pipe or candle incident? Our [cleaning and deodorizing](#), [fire damage](#) and [water damage restoration](#) teams are just one call away. Schedule an [appointment online](#) or call (855) 724-6269.

