



# 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.
- **Don't overload your extension cords:** Every cord has a limit of electrical current it can safely conduct. A 16-gauge extension cord is for light duty applications like holiday lights

## 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.



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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.

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