

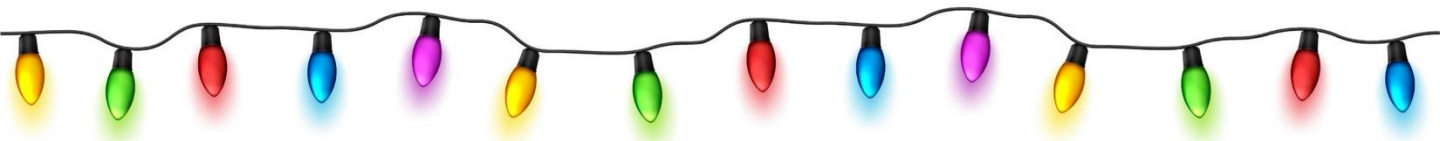
CHRISTMAS LIGHTS

Safety Topic V6-0487

Home & Holiday, Electrical

Some holiday lights and lighted decorations are only safe for indoor or outdoor use, not both, so make sure the lights you have are being used correctly.

- Replace any string of lights with worn or broken cords or loose bulb connections.
- Read manufacturer's instructions for the maximum number of light strands to connect safely. Do not overload electrical outlets with holiday lighting.
- Inspect power cords (every year!) to ensure there is no damage to the cord or insulation.
- Check the rating on your extension cords to make sure they meet the power needs for the way they are being used.
- Use clips, not nails, to hang lights so the cords do not get damaged.
- Outdoor extension cords, lights, and decorations should be plugged into outlets protected by ground fault circuit interrupters (GFCIs) or into portable outdoor GFCIs.
- Turn off all Christmas tree lights, light strings, and any other lighted decorations before leaving home or going to bed.
- Bring outdoor electrical lights inside after the holidays to prevent hazards and to make them last longer.



Do not stand on furniture or any other object that is not meant for climbing on when hanging your Christmas lights. Use the correct ladder for the task.

- To keep your balance, always maintain three points of contact—two hands and a foot or two feet and a hand—while climbing up or down a ladder.
- Ensure extension ladders are placed at a proper angle before climbing up.
- While hanging decorations, if a ladder must be set up in front of a door, make sure the door is locked, blocked open, or properly guarded.

Discussion

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What are some tips to make hanging Christmas lights on the house a safer activity?

Why is it important that outdoor decorations be plugged into GFCI-protected outlets?