



Decorating Safety

Choosing a Tree



- ❖ Artificial trees: Labels must read "Fire Resistant"
- ❖ Live trees: Make sure no needles fall off- if so its not fresh.

❖ **Keep stand filled with water** so tree does not dry out quickly

Setting Up a Tree

- ❖ Place the tree **away from** fireplaces, radiators, or portable heaters
- ❖ Be sure the tree is **mounted on a sturdy base** and placed away from walking areas so children cannot pull it over onto themselves

Decorating the Tree

- ❖ **Snow spray:** Follow directions to avoid lung irritation
- ❖ Use only flame-resistant decorations and ornaments
- ❖ Small/breakable ornaments: Keep on upper branches to keep away from children
- ❖ Keep decoration that are sharp, breakable, look like candy, and have small removable parts out of the reach of children.
- ❖ **Never** use lighted candles on trees
- ❖ Choose tinsel or artificial icicles made of **non-leaded material**. Lead materials are hazardous to children
- ❖ Holiday plants: Mistletoe, holly berries, and Christmas cactus if swallowed are poisonous. Keep these up high, away from small children and animals. Poinsettias cause stomach aches



Fireplaces

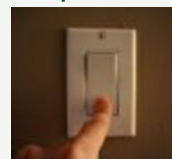


❖ **Do not burn** wrapping papers or tree branches in the fireplace-these ignite rapidly!

❖ Keep "fire salts," that make colored flames when put on wood fires, stored high, away from children. These salts contain heavy metals that can cause severe stomach irritation and vomiting if eaten

Lights

- ❖ **Indoor lights** use "indoors" only
- ❖ **Outside lights** use "outdoors" only and those with a label "certified for outdoor use"
- ❖ **Throw away lights with** broken sockets, frayed or bare wires
- ❖ **Outdoor lights and decorations** plugged into ground fault circuit interrupters (GFCIs), purchased where electrical supplies are sold
- ❖ **Use no more than three strings** of lights for each extension cord
- ❖ **Never** use electric lights on a metallic tree.
- ❖ **Stay away from** power lines leading from the home to utility poles
- ❖ **Fasten outdoor lights securely** to trees, house walls, or other firm supports to protect from wind damage. Use insulated staples to hold strings in place-not nails or tacks. or hook strings of lights on hooks
- ❖ When removing outdoor lights never pull lights down
- ❖ Turn off lights-when you leaving home and when you go to bed



Sources: CPSC, AAP, & NSC