

Fairy Lights

Fairy lights, Christmas tree lights, multiple sets of lights and other kinds of decorative lights get used less often than your everyday lights, and they need more care.

Check the fuses are the right type (see the box for the maximum size of fuse you should use). Don't just stick in a 13amp fuse!!

If bulbs blow, replace them.

Don't leave fairy lights on when you go out or when you go to sleep.

Use a timer switch for your lights.

Don't let the bulbs touch anything that can burn easily, like paper.

Don't overload sockets.

Decorations

Decorations made of light tissue paper or cardboard burn easily.

Don't attach them to lights or heaters.

Don't put them immediately above or around the fireplace.

Keep them away from candles.

Christmas Trees

Special fire safety precautions need to be taken when keeping a live tree in the house. A burning tree can rapidly fill a room with fire and deadly gases.

Selecting a Tree for Christmas

Needles on fresh trees should be green and hard to pull back from the branches, and the needle should not break if the tree has been freshly cut. The trunk should be sticky to the touch. Old trees can be identified by bouncing the tree trunk on the ground. If many needles fall off, the tree has been cut too long, has probably dried out, and is a fire hazard.

Caring for Your Tree

Do not place your tree close to a heat source, including a fireplace or heat vent. The heat will dry out the tree, causing it to be more easily ignited by heat, flame or sparks. Be careful not to drop or flick cigarette ashes near a tree. Do not put your live tree up too early or leave it up for longer than two weeks. Keep the tree stand filled with water at all times.

Disposing of Your Tree.

Never put tree branches or needles in a fireplace or wood burning stove. When the tree becomes dry, discard it promptly. The best way to dispose of your tree is by taking it to a recycling centre or having it taken away by a community pickup service.

Candles Dos and Don'ts

Always put candles on a heat resistant surface. Be especially careful with night lights and tea lights, which get hot enough to melt plastic. TVs are not fire-resistant objects.

Put them in a proper holder. Candles need to be held firmly upright by the holder so they won't fall over. The holder needs to be stable too, so it won't fall over either.

Don't put candles near curtains or other fabrics - or furniture. And keep them out of draughts.

Don't put them under shelves. It's easy to forget that there's a lot of heat above a burning candle. If you put it under a shelf or other surface then it can burn the surface. Make sure there's at least three feet (one metre) between a candle and any surface above it.

Keep clothes and hair away. If there's any chance you could lean across a candle and forget it's there, put it somewhere else. You don't want to set fire to your clothes or your hair.

Keep children and pets away. Candles should be out of reach of children and pets.

Keep candles apart. Leave at least four inches (10cm) between two burning candles.

Take care with votive or scented candles. These kinds of candles turn to liquid to release their fragrance, so put them in a glass or metal holder.

Don't move them when they're burning. Extinguish candles before moving them. Also, don't let anything fall into the hot wax like match sticks.

Don't leave them burning. Extinguish candles before you leave a room. Never go to sleep with a candle still burning. And never leave a burning candle or oil burner in a child's bedroom.

Use a snuffer or a spoon to put them out. It's safer than blowing them, which can send sparks and hot wax flying.