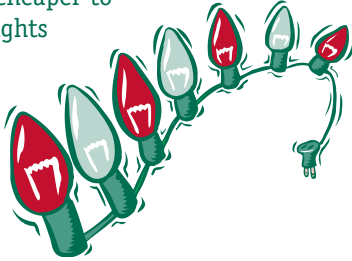


Holiday Safety

11. Do not exceed the manufacturer's guidelines on how many strings of lights that can be safely connected together.
12. Keep electrical connections off the ground and make sure the wiring is clear of drainpipes and railings to prevent the risk of electrical shock.
13. It is safer and cheaper to turn off your lights while you're sleeping or away from home. If you tend to forget, use a timer.
14. Don't use metal staples or nails as fasteners for lights. They can damage the protective insulation covering the wires.



Holiday season safety tips



Information provided by the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission.



**Consolidated Electric
Cooperative, Inc.**

Your Touchstone Energy® Partner



(800) 421-5863
www.conelec.com

Corporate Office

5255 State Route 95
Mount Gilead, OH 43338
(419) 947-3055

District Office

680 Sunbury Road
Delaware, OH 43015
(740) 363-2641

Plug into these 14 holiday safety tips to help insure a safe holiday lighting experience.



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Holiday Lighting Safety Tips



1. Always make sure the lights you are using have a UL safety certification label and rated 120-volts.

2. Check all the connections and insulation before you plug in any lights. Always test the

lights on a nonflammable surface for 15 minutes. If they start to melt, smoke or overheat throw the string away.

3. Place safety covers on unused outlets and keep the cords out of sight to protect adventuresome children and pets. Remember, a child caught by an electric cord can be strangled.

4. If you are using a real Christmas tree, make sure it is watered and keep the lights from coming into direct contact with the branches.

5. If you are using or purchasing an artificial tree, make sure it is made with



fire retardant material. Never use lights on metallic trees.



6. Keep your lights at least 3-feet away from any flammable and/or combustible materials such as draperies, clothing, furniture and rugs.

7. Be sure your home's smoke detectors have new batteries and that they are working properly. It is also a good idea, as an added precaution, to have a charged fire extinguisher available.

8. If you plan to place holiday lights outdoors, make sure all cords, lights and sockets are certified for outdoor use and that they are plugged into ground fault circuit interrupter outlets.

9. If you live in an aluminum-sided home, avoid stringing lights against it because it can conduct electricity and cause an electrical shock.



10. Always stay clear of any power lines.