

## Tips for decorating safely

With the holiday season upon us, it’s easy to get caught up in the festivities, long to-do lists and shorter daylight hours. Keep safety top of mind and prevent hazards. Being proactive can keep your focus on friends and family.



### Check lights for safety

Check lights and extension cords for cracked or frayed wires. Make sure there is a bulb in each light socket. Discard and replace damaged strands. Don’t string together more than three strands per extension cord. Use heavy-duty extension cords, and only use cords outdoors if they are designated for outdoor use. Prevent tripping by placing cords in low-traffic areas or investing in gaffer’s tape or cord covers.



### Be tree safe

When purchasing a cut tree, check for freshness. The needles should be hard to pull off and not break when you bend them. Cut a few inches off the bottom of the trunk before putting it in the stand and be sure to keep the stand filled with water. Place the tree away from fireplaces, radiators or portable heaters. Use only non-combustible or flame-resistant materials to trim a tree.



### Watch candles and fireplaces

Make sure lit fireplaces are free of hanging stockings and other decorations. If you are burning candles, place them on a sturdy surface and away from flammable items. Monitor candles closely and remember to extinguish them when you leave the room or go to bed.



### Practice ladder safety

Ladders should have stable placement on even ground, and you should wear shoes with good traction. When stringing lights and decorations above your normal reach, make sure you use a proper ladder with someone supporting the base.



Do you have your emergency supply of water and food, and have taken other steps to prepare for emergencies?

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