



Holiday Safety Checklist

With the holidays just around the corner, there are many things to consider when it comes to keeping your family healthy, safe, and happy.

The Tree

- If using a real tree, it does not lose needles when tapped on the ground.
- You have cut 2 inches off the trunk to help with water absorption.
- The tree stand holds at least 1 gallon of water and is refilled at least every two days. If the water level goes below the cut bottom of tree – make a fresh cut.
- The water level is checked daily.
- The tree has been secured so that it does not tip over.
- If artificial, it has been labeled with ULC approval.
- It is positioned away from floor heaters, fireplaces, and any other heat sources.
- It is not blocking any stairways or entrances.

The Lights

- You are using only ULC-approved lights, and have linked no more than 3 strands together. **Note:** A **green** ULC label indicates lights are for **indoor** use only – a **red** ULC label indicates lights can be used **outdoors** and indoors.
- You are using only indoor lights indoors, and outdoor lights outdoors.
- You have checked every strand for broken or cracked sockets, loose connections, or frayed wires.
- All damaged sets have been discarded.
- All lights are securely fastened.
- There are no overloaded wall outlets or extension cords.
- All outdoor electrical connections are above the ground out of puddles and snow and extension cords are rated for outdoor use and ULC or CSA approved.
- If the tree is metallic DO NOT string with electrical lights.
- Outdoor trees hung with lights are not touching power lines.
- Turn off the Christmas lights when you go to sleep, or if you leave home.

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Holiday Safety Checklist (Continued)

Candles

- All candles are placed in sturdy containers.
- They are a safe distance from anything that can burn, including holiday decorations.
- They are out of the reach of children and pets.
- They are extinguished prior to leaving the room, going to bed or leaving home.

Decorations

- Old decorations that may contain lead, such as old tinsel and icicles, have been discarded.
- Natural decorations, such as holly berries and mistletoe are kept out of the reach of small children.
- You are properly protected when decorating with spun glass "angel hair" and artificial snow sprays.
- Breakable ornaments are placed at the top of the tree, away from pets and children.

Fireplaces

- Ensure the flue is open before lighting a fire.
- Have a wire or glass fireplace screen in place when a fire is burning.
- Ensure all decorations are a safe distance away from the fireplace.
- Dispose of hot ashes in a metal container and placed safely outside until they are cold.
- Exercise caution when using "fire salts" which create colored flames.
- Do not burn wrapping papers or evergreen boughs. Flash fires could result from the intense burning and jumping sparks.

General

- Ensure you have working smoke alarms on every storey of your home and outside any sleeping areas. Test them monthly and never disable a smoke alarm. Develop and practice a home fire escape plan.
- Install a carbon monoxide detector in your home outside the sleeping area.
- Have an operable fire extinguisher readily available and know how to use it.

***The Amherstburg Fire Department
wishes you a safe & happy holiday season!***