



HOLIDAY DECORATIONS AND SAFETY TIPS

The holiday season is here! It's easy to get caught up in the festivities, and while you're busy decorating the house, safety may be one of the last things on your mind. To help you have a safe, healthy, and happy holiday season with your friends and family, here are 10 tips to keep in mind as you deck out your home:

- ❖ A live Christmas tree needs a lot of water, especially the first few days and it is important to check the level of the water every day. Plenty of water will prevent the needles from getting brittle and falling off before the Christmas season is over. Some people believe sugar helps prolong the life of Christmas trees. They believe the sugar water acts as a sort of artificial sap or food for the tree, thus helping the tree to live longer. However, you can't just pour sugar into the reservoir of the tree stand. You must dissolve it in the container used to water the tree. Use one cup of sugar per gallon of water. It is recommended you stir the container to ensure the sugar is dissolved, before you pour it into the tree stand reservoir.
- ❖ When decorating your patio or balcony, remember decorations should not go beyond your patio or balcony into the common areas. Also, potted plants or other items should never be placed on balcony railings.
- ❖ The following tips will help ensure your home remains safe during the Holidays:
- ❖ Remember to unplug Christmas tree lights, before going to bed or when leaving your apartment.
- ❖ Do not leave these on and unattended.
- ❖ Also, never put electric Christmas lights on a metallic tree.
- ❖ In addition, do not place your Christmas tree near a heater or a fireplace.
- ❖ Keep furniture and other decorations away from them, too.
- ❖ Holiday plants should also be kept beyond reach of small children and pets, since some holiday plants are poisonous if ingested. Poinsettias, mistletoe, holly, amaryllis, rosary pea and Jerusalem cherry are just a few such holiday plants.
- ❖ Children and pets should also be kept away from electrical cords and decorations.

Have a Happy and Safe Holiday Season!