

FACT SHEET

Christmas Lights

Every year fire departments attend fires that are caused by incorrectly placed Christmas lights. FPA Australia urge everyone decorating their home to review these simple guidelines to ensure their home is safe this Christmas.

Safety tips for Christmas lights

- If you are not experienced or are unsure of what you are doing, contact a licensed electrician.
- Only use transformers and decorative lights that have Australian Standards approval
- Don't use damaged or broken switches, power points, plugs or leads.
- If you are reusing Christmas lights, check their condition and replace any broken bulbs with those specified in the manufacturers instructions.
- Always follow the manufacturer's instructions when setting up your lights.
- Don't overload your power points or power boards and avoid piggy-backing double adaptors.
- Use weather proof, energy efficient transformers that generate low heat.
- Attach cords and lighting strings to fixtures with tape, cable ties, clips or clamps. Never use nails.
- Keep all electrical connections away from areas that may become wet.
- If there is no safety switch fitted to your home, use a portable one at the supply.

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If you are unsure of what you are doing, contact a licensed electrician.



Replace any broken bulbs with those specified in the manufacturers instructions.



Don't cover transformers with presents or decorations. This is a common cause of fires at Christmas.

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Keep tinsel away from power boards and wall sockets.



Put lights on your tree first, then add other decorations.

- Keep extension cords clear of areas in the home where people walk and avoid feeding electrical leads through windows and doors.
- Don't leave extension cords wound up when in use.
- Keep tinsel away from power boards and wall sockets. Tinsel is made of metal foil and can conduct electricity.
- Put the lights on your tree first, then add other decorations afterwards to ensure tinsel is kept away from the lights.
- For your outdoor decorations, use lighting products specifically designed for external use. Indoor lights are less durable and are not designed to cope with the weather in the same way as outdoor lights.
- Check that outdoor lights are away from overhead power lines leading to your house.
- Turn your Christmas lights off when you're not at home.
- Don't cover transformers with presents or decorations – this is a common cause of fires during the Christmas season.

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