

Save me... space & time

Safer holiday displays. Holiday decorating is all about fun, sparkle and warmth. But CableOrganizer.com suggests that revelers remember that many decorations carry the risk of fire or electrical injury if not used carefully. The company compiled these holidays decorating safety tips:

When shopping for lights, electric decorations and extension cords, purchase only the ones that are UL-listed.

If you decorate outdoors, only use lights and decorations that are rated for outdoor use. Putting indoor-only products outside in the weather can result in electric shock and fire hazards. Check the color-coded UL mark on the product's package to find out whether a product is intended for indoor or outdoor use.

Inspect all lights, electric decorations and extension cords for signs of damage to wire insulation, plugs, and bulbs, whether new or used. If the damage can be repaired (i.e. broken bulbs replaced), do not use the item until the repair has been made. If cords and plugs are damaged, discard and replace the decoration.

Always unplug lights before changing bulbs or replacing fuses.

If you need to replace a bulb in a string of Christmas lights, make sure that the wattage rating of the replacement bulb you're using matches that of the light strand. Using a bulb with too high a wattage can cause the light string to overheat, creating a fire risk.

Reduce your risk of electric shock when hanging Christmas lights outdoors, by passing up metal ladders in favor of ladders made of non-conductive materials like wood or fiberglass-reinforced plastic.

Check Christmas light wires every so often, to make sure that they're not warm to the touch.

Always turn off all Christmas lights and decorations before going to bed or leaving the house.

