

## Be Bright About Your Lights

Before you put even one strand of lights on your Christmas tree or your house, here are safety tips to keep in mind:

- ♦ When shopping for lights, electric decorations and extension cords, purchase only those that are UL-Listed.
- ♦ If you're planning to decorate outdoors, make sure you 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.
- ♦ If you're in doubt whether light strings are rated for indoor or outdoor use, check the color-coded UL mark on

the product's package. A green holographic UL mark says, "indoors only, please," while a red one indicates that the product is safe for both indoor and outdoor use.

- ♦ Whether they're brand-new or seasoned veterans from holidays past, inspect all lights, electric decorations and extension cords for signs of damage to wire insulation, plugs and bulbs.
- ♦ Always unplug lights before changing bulbs, replacing fuses or making any other repairs. Mark burned-out bulbs with masking tape so you can find them.
- ♦ If you need to replace a bulb in a string of Christmas

lights, make sure the wattage rating of the replacement bulb you're using matches that of the light strand.

- ♦ When hanging Christmas lights outdoors, reduce electric shock risk by passing up metal ladders in favor of ladders made of non-conductive materials such as wood or fiberglass-reinforced plastic.
- ♦ Verify how many strands of lights it is safe to connect end-to-end. (As a general rule, it's three).
- ♦ Turn off all Christmas lights before going to bed or leaving the house.

Source: [www.cableorganizer.com](http://www.cableorganizer.com)

*A staff report*

