

Concealing cords with style

The sparkle of the holidays comes with a load of unsightly electrical cords, but there are products that help disguise the connections without sacrificing safety.

This brass snowflake (\$19.05 at CableOrganizer.com) serves as a discreet dimmer for Christmas tree lights. Touch anywhere on the ornament to turn the lights on or off and select from three light levels. A 93-inch cable connects the module to the ornament.

CableOrganizer.com also offers a 12½-inch-long L-shaped plastic panel (\$12.97) that slides under a power strip and blocks the view of cords and sockets with a row of 4-inch-tall colorful snowmen.

Safety first

Here are some safety reminders for stringing holiday lights, from the National Fire Protection Association.

- Avoid running extension cords across doorways or under carpets.
- If cords are frayed or cracked, replace them.
- If outlets or switches feel warm, shut off the circuit and have them checked by an electrician.
- Avoid "cube taps" and other devices that allow multiple appliances to plug into a single receptacle.

