

DON'T GET BURNED BY HOLIDAY DECORATING

Here are some holiday-decorating safety tips from Christina Hansen, product specialist at CableOrganizer.com:

If you're planning to decorate outdoors, make sure that 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.

Be careful not to overload extension cords. Before you start plugging in, find out the wattage rating of your extension cord, as well as the power requirements of any lights or decorations you're planning to plug into it. A wattage rating is the amount of electricity that an extension cord is built to carry, and if the combined power requirements (or "pull") of your lights and decorations exceed that rating, overheating and fire can occur.

Before taking a Christmas tree home, make sure that its needles are fresh, green, and firmly attached to the branches. If you opt for an artificial tree instead, be sure that it's flame retardant.

— *Seattle Times staff*

