

Safety first this Christmas

Many families brighten their home with lights and decorations at Christmas. But before you dust off the decorations consider the following tips to help you and your family celebrate safely this festive season.

Safety tips to get you started

- If your lights have been in storage for the past year check cords, bulbs and plugs for signs of wear or damage before you plug them in.
- Only buy lights and decorations that meet Australian Safety Standards.
- Always turn the power off and unplug your lights before replacing bulbs.
- Don't overload powerpoints or powerboards by piggy backing double adaptors, and fully unroll extension cords to keep them from over heating.
- Check you have a safety switch in your meter box or have a qualified electrician install one.
- Ensure your home is fitted with smoke detectors and that they are in good working order.
- Make sure children and pets are supervised around Christmas lights at all times.



When decorating the tree

- Consider the location of powerpoints when positioning your tree, place extension cords in low traffic areas and keep power boards and adaptors out of reach from children.
- Position your tree away from curtains and other soft furnishings that may be flammable.
- Put your lights on the tree first followed by other decorations, making sure they aren't touching each other.
- Keep tinsel and other decorations away from lights, power boards and sockets.

Dos and don'ts of safe outdoor light displays

Do

- ✓ Plan your display, take note of overhead powerlines including the service line that connects your home to the electricity network and stay well away.
- ✓ Only use lights specifically designed for outdoor use and read manufacturers' installation instructions and follow them closely.
- ✓ Inspect cords, bulbs and plugs for signs of wear or damage.
- ✓ Fully unroll extension cords to keep them from overheating.
- ✓ Attach lights to your home using tape, cable ties or clamps never use nails.
- ✓ Switch off and unplug your Christmas lights when it rains, before leaving home or going to bed.

Don't

- ✗ Use cords, bulbs and plugs if they show signs of wear and damage.
- ✗ Run Christmas lights on or near the service line, over swimming pools or ponds.
- ✗ Expose joins in extension cords to the weather.
- ✗ Join more than one extension cord together.
- ✗ Use lights intended for indoor use in your outdoor display.
- ✗ Over crowd powerpoints or use multiple double adaptors.
- ✗ Run your extension cords across driveways or paths.