



Holiday Safety Tips

With the Onset of Holiday Activities Here Are A Few Safety Tips to Keep in Mind:

Fire Safety & Candles

Accidental candle fires account for approximately four percent of all U.S. residential fires. A study by the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission suggests that 85 percent of candle fires could be avoided if three basic safety rules were followed:

1. **Never leave a burning candle unattended.**
2. **Never burn a candle on or near anything that is combustible.**
3. **Keep candles out of the reach of children and pets.**

In addition it is important that everyone in the home know how to call 911 for emergency help!!

Food Safety

1. Bacteria are often present in raw foods. Fully cook meats and poultry, and thoroughly wash raw vegetables and fruits. Be sure to keep hot liquids and food away from the edges of counters and tables.
2. Always keep raw foods and cooked foods separately, and use separate utensils when preparing them.
3. Always thaw meat in the refrigerator, never on the countertop.
4. Foods that require refrigeration should never be left at room temperature for more than two hours.

Electrical Safety & Extension Cords

It is extremely important to utilize extension cords appropriately. Overloading them can cause fire. One important thing to remember is that extension cords are for temporary use only.

Remembering to **Do** the following can aid in preventing an electrical event:

- **Do** inspect extension cords for physical damage before use.
- **Do** check the wattage rating on the item, appliance or tool that the extension cord will be used with; do not use an extension cord that has a lower rating.
- **Do** make sure all equipment and extension cords bear the mark of an independent testing laboratory such as UL (Underwriter ' s Laboratories).
- **Do** make sure the plug on an extension cord is fully inserted in the outlet.
- **Do** replace an outlet if a plug is too loose in the outlet.
- **Do** match the plug and extension cord on a polarized cord (one hole on the plug is larger than the other).
- **Do** keep extension cords away from water.

Got a Safety Question?
Open any browser and type the word Safety into the URL box, and hit enter.



Tips for an Environmentally Friendly Holiday Season

Select Energy Star Home Entertainment: You can find the Energy Star label on nearly all entertainment products from TVs and Blu-ray disc players to home-theaters-in-a-box. If you are in the market for a digital picture frame, consider one that has earned the Energy Star. It uses 25 percent less energy than non-qualified models. Find Energy Star product information at: <http://www.energystar.gov/products>



Choose Energy Star Qualified Battery Chargers for your Favorite Product: Products that use Energy Star qualified battery chargers, such as video game controllers, digital cameras, shavers, hand vacuums, power tools, and cordless lawn mowers, use 35 percent less energy compared to conventional chargers. Old battery chargers can be recycled through many manufacturers and retailers that have electronics recycling programs nationwide.

Hang Energy Efficient Holiday Lights: Look for the Energy Star label on LED decorative light strings to meet your holiday decorating needs. Qualified light strings use about 70 percent less electricity than incandescent light strings.

New Electronic Gift? Recycle Old the One.



Look for Healthier Homes 'Design for the Environment' Label: From pet care products to dish soaps to supplies for a car, consumers should look for the Design for the Environment (DfE) label to quickly identify and choose products that are safer for families and also help protect the environment. In 2010, Americans using products with the DfE label cut the use of harmful chemicals by more than 600 million pounds.



Have a Water Efficient H2Ooliday: Preparing for and cleaning up after a holiday meal often requires more water use than usual. Running your tap continuously while preparing food or washing dishes wastes water and can use more than two gallons of water every minute. If every American household reduced their water use by 10 gallons on New Years Day, it would save more than 1 billion gallons of water. Find WaterSense products at <http://www.epa.gov/watersense/>



Use Reusable Shopping Bags and Skip Excess Wrapping.



Shop Locally: Save gas and support your local merchants. Consider gifts which don't go out of style and can't be broken. Gift vouchers for gym memberships, oil changes, and haircuts are always appreciated

