

Loss Prevention Safety Tip



**Loss Prevention
Program**

By Red River Mutual

HOLIDAY SAFETY

Safety Tips for Using Lights & Extension Cords

- Only use lights and extension cords that are in good condition. Check for frayed wires, broken bulbs, cracked sockets or plugs and excessive wear. Feel the cords to see if they are warm when plugged in. If you find any of these signs of damage, replace with CSA approved lights.
- Always follow the manufacturer's instructions about how many sets of lights that can be safely strung together. Do not overload electrical outlets.
- Use only indoor lights and extension cords indoors, and outdoor lights and cords for outdoor use.
- Use LED lights as they have cool-burning lights and save electricity.
- Never remove the ground pin or file the wide peg of plug as this interferes with the electrical grounding.
- Never place extension cords through doorways or under carpets.

Additional Decorating Safety Tips

- Use only fire resistant artificial trees and decorations.
- Do not use angel hair (glass wool) together with spray-on snowflakes as this combination is very combustible.
- Be careful when using metallic ornaments on the tree. They could become a shock hazard if contact is made with defective wiring.
- Do not use nails, tacks or staples to hang cords and lights as this can damage the insulation on the outside of the wire, causing corrosion or a short circuit.



Ladder Safety

- Always use an appropriately sized ladder when hanging decorations.
- Stepladders should be about 1 m (3 ft) shorter than the highest point you have to reach. This height provides a wide, stable base.
- Open the stepladder spreaders and shelf fully to avoid collapse.
- Do not overreach. Climb down and move the ladder when needed.
- Do not stand, climb or sit on the stepladder top or pail shelf.
- Make sure that all of the ladder's feet are on a firm and level surface.
- Maintain three-point contact on stepladders by keeping two feet and one hand on the ladder at all times.

Be merry, but be safe, and thus have a happier holiday season!

See more loss prevention tips at www.preventingloss.com

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