

Holiday fire safety tips

Christmas Trees

When you buy an artificial tree, look for the “fire resistant” label. This doesn’t mean the tree won’t catch fire, but it does indicate the tree will resist burning and should extinguish quickly.

When purchasing a real tree, check for freshness. A fresh tree is green; needles are hard to pull from branches and when bent between your fingers, needles do not break. The trunk butt of a fresh tree is sticky with resin, and when tapped on the ground, the tree should not lose many needles.

When setting up a tree, place it away from fireplaces and radiators. Heated rooms dry live trees out rapidly, so be sure to keep the stand filled with water. Place the tree out of the way of foot traffic and do not block doorways.

When you’re ready to get rid of your tree, do not burn it in the fireplace or wood stove. The rapid burning and excessive heat can damage the firebox and chimney creating a serious fire hazard.

Lights and Electrical

For both indoors and outside lights, always use CSA approved lights. Check each set, new or old, for broken or cracked sockets, frayed or bare wires, or loose connections, and throw out damaged sets.

Use no more than three standard-size sets of lights per single extension cord.

Never use electric lights on a metallic tree. The tree can be charged with electricity from faulty lights and a person touching any part of it could be electrocuted.

Fasten outdoor lights securely to trees, house walls or other firm supports to protect the lights from wind damage. Use only insulated staples — not nails or tacks.

Turn off all the lights when you turn in for the night or leave the house.

Decorations

Use only non-combustible or flame-resistant materials to trim a tree. Choose tinsel or artifi-

cial icicles of plastic or non-leaded metals.

Never use lighted candles on a tree or near other evergreens. Always use non-flammable holders, and place candles where they will not be knocked down.

Holiday Entertaining

Test your smoke alarms and tell guests about your home fire escape plan.

Keep children and pets away from lit candles. Keep matches and lighters up high in a locked cabinet.

Stay in the kitchen while cooking. Ask smokers to smoke outside.

Fireplaces

Do not burn wrapping paper in the fireplace. A flash fire may result as wrappings ignite suddenly and intensely.

Always use a screen in front of a fireplace to protect against flying sparks.

Never use gasoline or any other flammable liquids to start a fire.

Never leave the fire unattended.

Candles

Extinguish candles when leaving the room or going to sleep.

Don’t place lit candles near windows, where blinds or curtains may blow over them.

Never let candles burn out completely. Extinguish them when they get to within two inches of the holder.

In the Kitchen

Grease fires and fat fires are a leading cause of home fires in Canada. If grease in a pot or pan catches fire, do the following:

- Smother the flames by covering the pan with a lid. Do not remove the lid until the pan is completely cooled.
- Turn off the heat immediately.
- Use baking soda (flour can be explosive) on shallow grease fires.
- Never turn on the overhead fan, the fire could spread.
- Never throw water on a grease fire.

Wishing you and your family a wonderful holiday and all the best for 2018!

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On behalf of the entire Decker Team, we would like to take this opportunity to wish all of our friends, neighbours, relatives and especially our valued customers a safe and Merry Christmas. Derek, Lana and the Decker Team

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