

COUNTDOWN TO
CHRISTMAS

**INSIDE OUT
DECORATING**

*For All Your Holiday
Decorating Ideas*



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happy holidays

Make this holiday a safe
and happy one

Part of a happy holiday season is a safe and secure home.

While waiting for Christmas, be sure to spend some time making your home as safe as possible.

Trees and decorative lighting, in particular, need special attention.

TREE CARE

If a real tree is your tradition, ensure you buy a fresh one. When inspecting cut trees, tap the trunk on the ground.

A fresh tree will not lose green needles.

Before setting the tree up, cut one inch off the trunk to help it absorb water better. Your tree stand should be clean and hold at least one gallon of water. The water level should be checked every day.

MORE HELPFUL TIPS

- Don't place your tree near the fireplace, floor heaters or other sources of heat.

- To prevent the tree from tipping, secure it with a wire to a nearby wall or other secure structure.

- Never decorate with candles, even if your tree is artificial - candles are a major fire hazard.

- Use cool-burning bulbs to decorate the tree.
- Always turn the tree lights out before leaving the house or going to bed.

DECORATIVE LIGHTING

With the great selection of decorative lighting on the market, it's easy to get carried away, overload outlets and create other electrical hazards.

Be imaginative, but keep these helpful tips in mind when decorating with lights.

- Use outdoor lights outdoors and indoor lights indoors; same goes for extension cords.

- Never connect more than three light strands together.

- Before stringing light strands on the tree and elsewhere, check for broken and loose bulbs and connections. Plug the strand in to an outlet to ensure all lights are

working. Replace any that aren't.

- String light strands around the tree before adding any other decorations.

- Keep tinsel and other decorative items away from the lights.

- Never use electric lights on a metallic tree.

- Don't overload electric outlets.

See KEEP, page 11.

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