



IMCOM *Safety* Gram



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Tips to Help You Safely Deck Your Halls

The Holiday Season means road trips, package wraps and ribbons, a fully trimmed tree, and more challenges. Consider these few tips for planning and safety this Holiday Season.

Safety Checklist before the Holidays

- ◆ Put any fuel that can catch on fire in a safe container outside the home.
- ◆ Test your home's multipurpose fire extinguisher.
- ◆ Test the batteries in your fire alarm.
- ◆ Clear any clutter out of escape routes from your home.
- ◆ If toddlers will be visiting, install safety gates at tops and bottoms of stairs.
- ◆ Check your throw rugs for non-slip backings.
- ◆ Put nightlights in hallways.
- ◆ Test the ground fault circuit interrupters (GFCIs), both indoors and outdoors.



Holiday Decorations and Tree Trimming

- ◆ Before you buy a live tree, bend some needles in half. If they break easily or don't spring back, the tree is too dry.
- ◆ At home, put your tree in a non-tip stand kept filled with water.
- ◆ Place it at least three feet (one meter) away from a heat source, and near an electrical outlet.
- ◆ Before you string on the lights, inspect the bulbs, sockets, and cords for damage. Never put candles on a tree.
- ◆ String no more than three strands of lights together.
- ◆ If you buy a decorative plant for the holidays, ask the florist if it's poisonous to kids or pets. Keep questionable plants out of children's reach.

Reach For The Star - But Don't Reach Far!

- ◆ Face a ladder while climbing, and wear non-slip soles.
- ◆ When reaching to crown your tree with an ornament, keep your body centered on the ladder.
- ◆ On a stepladder, stand no higher than the second rung from the top.
- ◆ When nailing Santa onto the roof, remember that the highest safe standing level of an extension ladder is third rung from the top.
- ◆ Place your outdoor ladder well away from power lines, on level ground.

Great Safety Gifts to Give and Get

- ◆ Smoke alarm
- ◆ Cooking thermometer
- ◆ Car emergency kit
- ◆ Reaching aids
- ◆ Safety glasses / goggles
- ◆ Escape ladder
- ◆ Fire extinguisher
- ◆ Carbon monoxide detector



Make sure you keep these safety tips in mind keep your Holidays a joyous occasion for everyone!.