

ST. NICHOLAS HOSPITAL HEALTHSOURCE

Holiday Safety

While this is the season to be Jolly, it can lead to dangerous, potentially life-threatening situations. With a little planning and a few safety measures, the holidays can be safe as well as fun.

Christmas trees are a beautiful part of the holiday season. They can also be a safety hazard. If you're picking out a live tree, make sure the needles are green and moist, never old or brittle. After purchasing a live tree, cut the bottom off the tree to expose new wood that will better be able to soak up water. Keep the tree watered and away from fire hazards such as fireplaces, space heaters, candles, overhead lights, and radiators. If you are using an artificial tree, make sure that it is fire resistant and UL (Underwriters Laboratory) or FM (Factory Mutual) listed assuring the trees have met certain safety standards. Finally, make sure the base of the tree is steady so it won't tip over easily.

Never use electric lights on old metal artificial trees, and never put extension cords under rugs; the friction can fray the cords and cause a potential fire and/or shock hazards.

Make sure that the toys that Santa brings are age appropriate.

Place older ornaments and decorations that might be painted with lead paint out of the reach of small children and pets.

Speaking of pets, make sure all glass ornaments are out of their reach. Certain plants, such as poinsettias, and some favorite holiday foods, like chocolate, also can be deadly to the four-legged members of your family, so make sure these items are not within their reach.

Finally, in this season of celebration, do so responsibly. Never drink and drive as the consequences can be severe.

Following these tips will help you and your family have a safe, happy holiday!



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