



Holiday Lights Safety Checklist

Before you untangle the lights, give your home a quick safety check.

01 PLAN AND INSPECT

- ☐ **Plan your display.** Locate outlets and map cord routes away from walkways, doors and driveways.
- ☐ **Inspect lights and cords.** Discard sets with frayed wires, cracked sockets or damaged plugs. Test lights before hanging them.
- ☐ **Choose outdoor-rated products.** Check that lights, extension cords, timers and smart plugs are labeled for outdoor use.

02 CHECK YOUR OUTLETS AND CONNECTIONS

- ☐ **Check outdoor outlets.** Look for loose outlets, cracked covers or signs of moisture. Have an electrician address damage before decorating.
- ☐ **Test GFCI protection.** Use GFCI-protected outlets for outdoor decorations. Follow TEST/RESET instructions; arrange repairs if protection fails.
- ☐ **Protect connections from rain and sprinklers.** Use appropriate weatherproof covers and keep plug connections out of puddles.
- ☐ **Check connection limits.** Follow the manufacturer's limits for connecting light strands. Stay within cord, timer and circuit ratings.

03 DECORATE AND USE SAFELY

- ☐ **Route cords safely.** Avoid pinching cords in windows or doors, running them under rugs, or connecting extension cords end to end.
- ☐ **Use proper light clips.** Avoid nails or staples that could damage wiring.
- ☐ **Set an automatic shutoff.** Use a properly rated timer to turn lights off before bed or when you leave home.
- ☐ **Address warning signs early.** Stop using decorations if plugs become hot, outlets smell scorched or breakers repeatedly trip.

GET READY BEFORE THE HOLIDAY RUSH

Need additional outdoor outlets or help with your electrical system?

Schedule a visit with United Electric. (941) 335-5002

Safety guidance: U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission.