



Electrical Safety Tips for the Holidays

The Holiday Season is upon us once again. In my book, nothing quite says the Holiday Season is here like a beautiful Holiday light display. With all the lighted inflatables, sparkling lights, and other temporary electrical installations that are part of the Holiday décor, comes the inherent risk of taxing a property's electrical system to power everything that is going on in the display. Below are 9 electrical safety tips to help you and your family be safe during this Holiday Season.

- 1. Examine your electrical decorations.** Before you start wrapping your Christmas tree, outdoor trees, or stringing lights on the roof, give your electrical decoration a good "once over" to check for any frayed wires, damaged plugs or sockets, and loose connections. Also make sure that the decorations have been inspected by a certified or accredited inspection agency.
- 2. Start with a plan and factor in your electrical requirements.** Before any decoration takes place, make sure and map out a decorating plan and determine what loads are already on the circuits that will be used. Also make sure and match the amperage requirements for the decorations with the amperage rating of the extension cords being used.
- 3. Protect extension cords from damage.** Do not support light strings in a way that might damage the cord's insulation. Make sure that extension cords are not pinched by furniture, placed under rugs, located near heat sources, crammed into small spaces, or attached by nails or staples.
- 4. Pay attention to how many consecutive strings of lights you plug in together.** Wattage loads can add up very quickly and this is especially true with older incandescent light strings. Follow the manufactures instructions on how many strings can be plugged in to one another. It might be worth updating older strings for new LED lights.
- 5. Never overload electrical circuits.** Overloaded outlets and circuits are a common cause of fire. Remember the 80% rule. Only load a 15 Amp circuit to 12 Amps, and a 20 Amp circuit to 16 Amps.
- 6. Make sure that all outdoor circuits are protected by ground fault circuit interrupters (GFCIs).** If outdoor circuits are not GFCI circuits, make sure and purchase cords or devices that provide portable, in line GFI protection.
- 7. Replace all traditional wick candles with battery operated imitations.** Nearly 50% of home decoration fires are caused by real candles. The imitation candles that are being made, look so realistic, that they have to be touched to tell the difference. .
- 8. Inspect the entire property inside and out before leaving.** Turn off all indoor and outdoor electrical decorations before leaving or going to sleep for the evening. Be on the lookout for tripping hazards like toys, wrapping paper or extension cords that could cause havoc in the dark. Also make sure and keep combustibles at least three feet away from any heat source.
- 9. Make certain that artificial trees are labeled fire retardant or fire resistant.** Do not use electrical decorations or light strings on artificial trees with metallic leaves or branch coverings. They can facilitate and electrical short circuit should they accidentally come in contact with bare wires or broken bulbs.

As you are preparing for the Holiday season make sure and remember these safety tips to keep you and your family safe during this festive time of year. Until next time my friends, be prepared and stay safe.

All of us at the Gerloff Companies would like to wish you and your family a Happy and Safe Holiday Season.

December 2018

Events

December 5: IIASA Holiday Luncheon
 December 6: CAMO Holiday Luncheon
 December 7: SA BOMA Luncheon
 December 7: Gerloff CE Class
 December 12: AAFAME Holiday Luncheon
 December 13: IREM Holiday Luncheon
 December 13: Austin BOMA Holiday Luncheon
 December 14: IWSA Holiday Luncheon
 December 14: IFMA Holiday Gala
 December 24: Christmas Eve
 December 25: Christmas Day
 December 31: New Years Eve Day

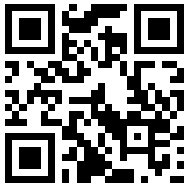
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2	3	4	5 IIASA Luncheon	6 CAMO Luncheon	7 SABOMA Luncheon Gerloff CE Class	8
9	10	11	12 AAFAME Luncheon	13 IREM Luncheon Austin BOMA Luncheon	14 IWSA Luncheon IFMA Gala	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24 Christmas Eve	25 Christmas Day	26	27	28	29
30	31 New Years Eve					

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