

## ELECTRICAL SAFETY TIPS FOR THE HOLIDAYS

# DECK THE HALLS WITH BOUGHS OF SAFETY

Follow some common sense to keep your Christmas tree fresh and electrical lights safe.

### KEEP THESE TIPS IN MIND WHEN DECORATING YOUR HOME.

- **If you decorate with a real tree**, make sure it's fresh. Needles should not be dropping or coming off easily. Try this: Take hold of a branch between your thumb and forefinger about 6 inches from the tip. Pull your hand toward you, allowing the branch to slip through your fingers. Needles should not come off.
- **When you get your tree home**, cut a few inches off the bottom of the stem and immediately place the tree in water, even if you do not yet intend to decorate it. Water daily.
- **Decorate your tree with LED lights.** Unlike traditional incandescent bulbs or tiny lights, LEDs do not get hot. They also use 75 to 90% less electricity for the same amount of light and come in a wide range of sizes, colors and lighting patterns.
- **Carefully inspect each light and the cord.** Cracked and loose bulbs and frayed or bare wires can shock or start a fire.
- **Do not overload wall outlets or extension cords.**
- **Always unplug your indoor holiday lights before leaving home or going to bed.** Have your outdoor lights on a timer to save energy and reduce the risk of fire.

