

Fireplaces



▼ Have a professional cleaner inspect and clean your chimney at least once a year.

▼ Always use a fire screen.

▼ Burn only materials appropriate for a fireplace. Never burn trash or paper. Burned paper can fly out your chimney. Put ashes in metal containers and never store them in your home.

Candles

▼ Always stand candles in stable, non-tip candle holders before you light them.

▼ Keep candles away from combustible decorations or displays.

▼ Never leave candles burning unattended or within reach of small children.

▼ Extinguish candles before you leave a room or before you go to bed.

Holiday parties

▼ Use flame-retardant or non-combustible decorations and costumes.

▼ Don't smoke near the tree or decorations. Use large ashtrays, and store matches out of the reach of children. Check for cigarette butts in upholstered furniture before you go to bed.

***Protect
your family.***

***Protect
your home.***

Prevention, Detection, and Escape

For the fire prevention office
in your area,

visit

toronto.ca/fire

or call

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9 ***Have a Fire-Safe Holiday***



*Follow a few extra fire safety
precautions*

Have a Fire-Safe Holiday

Each year there are numerous residential fires during the holiday season. Most can be prevented. To ensure your happy holiday doesn't turn into tragedy, you need to follow a few extra fire safety precautions.

Supervise children

- ▼ Don't leave small children alone in the home even for a moment.
- ▼ Teach children to stay away from candles, fireplaces, trees and space heaters.
- ▼ Keep matches and lighters out of children's reach.
- ▼ Keep electric toys away from natural or artificial trees and paper decorations.

Christmas trees

Natural trees

- ▼ Buy the freshest, greenest Christmas tree you can find. Trees that are too dry have brittle branches that shed needles easily.
- ▼ Test twigs and needles for flexibility. A dry tree will break, not bend.
- ▼ Store the tree outdoors, preferably in shade, until you're ready to use it.

- ▼ Use a stand that includes a water receptacle at the base to keep end of tree wet. Add water to the tree each day.



- ▼ Keep the tree away from candles, fireplaces, heating vents, radiators, television sets and other sources of heat.

- ▼ Make sure your tree doesn't block fire exits.
- ▼ Keep a multi-purpose dry chemical fire extinguisher on hand.
- ▼ Use decorations that are flame-resistant or non-combustible.
- ▼ Turn light strings off before you go to bed and when you leave the house.
- ▼ Discard the tree when it begins to turn brown or dry out.

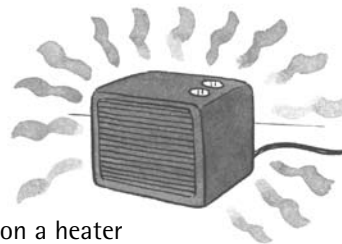


Artificial trees

- ▼ Artificial trees must have a fire-retardant label.
- ▼ Metal or aluminum trees are conductors of electricity. Don't decorate them with strings of lights or with any electrical product.

Space heaters need space

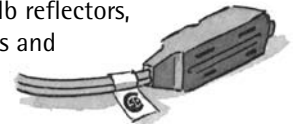
- ▼ Space heaters must have a Canadian Standards Association (CSA) label.
- ▼ Keep portable space heaters at least 1 metre (3 feet) from anything combustible including paper, drapes, furniture, bedding and wallpaper.
- ▼ Never place clothes on a heater to dry.
- ▼ Avoid leaving heaters on when you leave the house or go to bed.
- ▼ Keep children well away from heaters.



Decorative lighting

Indoor lights

- ▼ Examine light strings for wear or damage each year before re-using them. Replace worn sets.
- ▼ Before replacing burned out lights, unplug the light string.
- ▼ Unplug all decorative lighting before you go to bed or leave your home.
- ▼ Use light strings, bulb reflectors, electrically lit decorations and extension cords that bear the CSA label and are marked for indoor use.



Outdoor lights

- ▼ Use CSA labelled light strings and cords that are marked for outdoor use.
- ▼ Turn off electricity to the outlet before working with outdoor wiring.
- ▼ Use insulated tape, not metal nails or tacks to hold strings of lights in place.
- ▼ Don't tape cords over, under, or along metal eavestroughs.
- ▼ Run all outdoor cords above ground, keeping them out of puddles and snow.
- ▼ To prevent moisture from entering bulb sockets, turn the bulbs to face the ground.