

Trees

While most artificial trees are fire resistant, we know many of us still prefer a real tree for the holidays!

A fresh tree will stay green longer and be less of a fire hazard than a dry tree.

To check for freshness, remember:

- ◆ A fresh tree is green.
- ◆ Fresh needles are hard to pull from branches.
- ◆ When bent between your fingers, fresh needles do not break.
- ◆ The trunk butt of a fresh tree is sticky with resin.
- ◆ When the trunk of a tree is bounced on the ground, a shower of falling needles shows that tree is too dry.



Place tree away from fireplaces, radiators and other heat sources. Heated rooms dry trees out rapidly, creating fire hazards. Cut off about two inches of the trunk to expose fresh wood for better water absorption. Trim away branches as necessary to set tree trunk in the base of a sturdy, water-holding stand with wide spread feet. Keep the stand filled with water while the tree is indoors.

Happy Holidays



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

Warren County Health Services
Division of Public Health

Warren County Public Health

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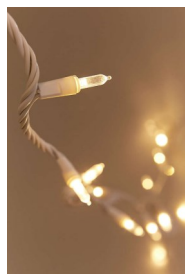


Holiday Decoration Safety Tips!

Warren County Public Health
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Lights

Indoors or outside, use only lights that have been tested for safety. Identify these by the label from an independent testing laboratory.



Check each set of lights, new or old, for broken or cracked sockets, frayed or bare wires, or loose connections. Discard damaged sets or repair them before using.

Fasten outdoor lights securely to trees, house, walls or other firm support to protect from wind damage. Use no more than three standard-size sets of lights per single extension cord.

Turn off all lights on trees and other decorations when you go to bed or leave the house. Lights could short and start a fire.

Candles

Never use lighted candles on a tree or near other evergreens—and never leave candles unattended.

Always use non-flammable holders.

Keep candles away from other decorations and wrapping paper.

Place candles where they cannot be knocked down or blown over.

Paper Decorations

When making paper decorations, look for materials labeled non-combustible or flame-resistant.

Never place trimming near open flames or electrical connections.

Remove all wrapping papers from tree and fireplace areas immediately after presents are opened.

Do not burn papers in the fireplace. A flash fire may result as wrappings ignite suddenly and burn intensely.

Fires

Before lighting any fire, remove all greens, papers, and other decorations from fireplace area.

Keep a screen in front of the fireplace all the time a fire is burning.

Never leave your fire burning when you leave the house or go to sleep.

Children...

In homes with small children, take special care to:

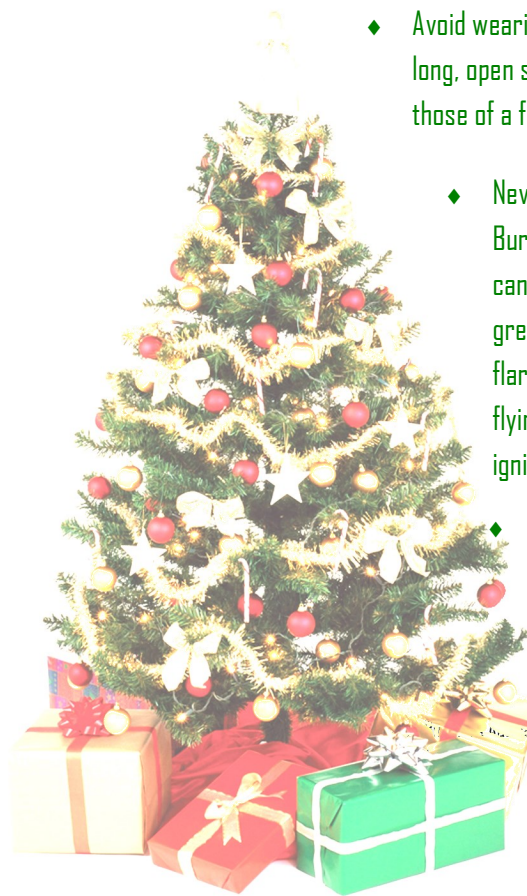
Avoid decorations that are sharp or breakable.

Keep trimmings with small removable parts out of the reach of children. Pieces could be swallowed or inhaled.

Avoid trimmings that resemble candy or food. A child could eat them!

General Safety Practices..

- ◆ Keep matches, lighters, and candles out of the reach of children.
- ◆ Avoid smoking near flammable decorations.
- ◆ Make an emergency plan to use if a fire breaks out anywhere in the home. See that each family member knows what to do. **PRACTICE THE PLAN!**
- ◆ Avoid wearing loose flowing clothes— particularly long, open sleeves—near open flames - such as those of a fireplace, stove, or candlelit table.
- ◆ Never burn candles near evergreens. Burning evergreens in the fireplace can also be hazardous. When dry, greens burn like tinder. Flames can flare out of control, and send sparks flying into a room, or up the chimney to ignite creosote deposits.
- ◆ Plan for safety. Remember, there is no substitute for common sense. Look for and eliminate potential danger spots near candles, fireplaces, trees, and/or electrical connections.



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