



Holiday Greetings from Safetydude LLC to All of You!!!



My family and I would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a **Very Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukkah, and the Happiest of New Years.**

Take the time to enjoy the holidays with friends and family. Relax and come back refreshed. Let's put the past behind us and hope for a better 2023.

Be safe and see you next year!



Christmas Lights

Mixing and matching lights can create a fire hazard, so keep outside lights outside and inside lights inside. Examine your lights before you hang them. Check to see that each strand has a factory label, which means it has been safety tested. Check the light bulbs, sockets, wires and plugs to make sure nothing is cracked, broken or exposed. Replace any missing bulbs, being careful to never bypass a fuse. After replacing any missing or broken parts, check each set by setting it on a nonflammable surface and plugging it in for 10-15 minutes to see that the lights don't melt or smoke.

Now that you have examined your lights, you're ready to hang them. Be sure to take the following precautions:

- Position the bulbs so they are not in direct contact with needles or ornaments. Also keep lights away from curtains or flammable materials.
- If you string lights together using built in connectors, don't join more than 200 mini lights or 50 larger lamps through one string or cord.
- Don't connect more than three sets of lights to an extension cord.
- Keep cords and plugs away from the water under the tree.

Be careful where you place electrical cords:

- Keep cords out of high-traffic areas where people can trip over them.
- Don't run a cord under a rug or carpet, since wires could overheat and surrounding material could catch on fire.
- Be cautious when placing cords behind furniture – if pinched, cords may fray.

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Christmas Tree Safety

Christmas trees are one of the most popular traditions of the season – and one of the most dangerous. Whether you choose a living tree or an artificial one, safety should be your top consideration.

Freshness is the key to selecting a living tree. A fresh tree is moist and not as flammable as a dry tree. The best way to get a fresh tree is to cut it yourself. But even if you are looking at pre-cut trees, you can use these tests to help you judge a tree's freshness:

- Lift the tree and tap the trunk on the ground. Only a few needles should fall and the trunk should be sticky with sap.
- Grab a branch near the base and pull on it slowly to check for loose needles.
- Bend a few needles in half between your fingers. If the needles bend but don't break, the tree is probably fresh.

Once you get your tree home, take these precautions to keep it fresh:

- Keep the tree outdoors and cover the trunk in snow or immerse it in a bucket of water until you're ready to decorate.
- When you're ready to put your tree up, cut a one or two inch diagonal slice off the bottom of the trunk. The new cut helps the tree absorb water which preserves its freshness.
- Put the tree in a sturdy, water-holding stand with wide-spread legs.
- Keep the stand filled with water the entire time the tree is indoors.
- Keep your tree away from heat sources such as heat ducts and fireplaces.

When the holidays are over, you should take your tree outside as soon as possible. If you are considering using an artificial tree this year, be aware that even flame-resistant artificial trees can catch fire – especially if they have years of dust buildup on them. Wash your artificial tree each year and store the parts in plastic bags.

Important: To keep your tree from being knocked over, set it up where it is out of the way of people traffic and where it does not block entrances or exits.

FIREPLACE SAFETY



Winter is just around the corner, and when the weather outside turns frightful, there's nothing so delightful as a warming fireplace. However, before you fire up the household hearth, let us remind you of a few simple safety rules that can help make your fireplace warm and cozy instead of a potential health and safety hazard.

Have your chimney checked annually. Creosote builds up in chimneys and provides fuel for chimney fires. An inspection will reveal the extent of build-up and whether a cleaning is needed. An inspection may also show that small animals have put their summer to good use building a nest in your chimney, another great source of chimney fire fuel. Most importantly, an inspection can reveal whether cracks have developed in the chimney walls, cracks that can allow deadly carbon monoxide gas to leak into your home.

Sparks can fly, so use a fireplace screen to keep sparks in the fireplace and away from carpeting and other combustible surfaces.

Never leave a fire unattended. Make sure the fire has been completely extinguished before you leave the house or go to bed.

Gas fireplaces need to have jets cleaned and all lines and connections checked to make sure everything is leak-free and in good working order. Dirty jets can cause gas to burn incompletely, resulting in a build-up of deadly carbon monoxide.

All woods are not created equal. Dry, seasoned hardwoods burn hotter and cleaner. Never burn old lumber; it may be treated and burning treated lumber can release harmful chemicals.

Safety Tip of the Month

The holiday season is here and so are the holiday parties. Be smart - don't drink and drive. Use an alternative way home. Drink responsibly!

Notes From the Editor

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