

Evergy Urges Holiday Light and Decoration Safety

Follow these guidelines for a safe and merry holiday season.

Kansas City, MO – December 3, 2024 - The holiday season is here with festive lights and decorations. As families get ready to decorate, **Evergy reminds customers to be safe with both indoor and outdoor holiday lights.**

- **Inspect electrical decorations for damage:** Discard decorations that are cracked or have damaged sockets or loose or bare wires.
- **Make sure holiday lights and decorations are properly rated for indoor or outdoor use:** Only use indoor lights inside your home and outdoor lights outside. Not all lights are built to handle winter weather.
- **Don't connect more than three strings of lights:** This could blow a fuse and start a fire.
- **Look for certification labels:** Decorations should have labels from independent testing laboratories such as **Underwriters Laboratories (UL), Canadian Standards Association (CSA) or Intertek (ETL)** If they don't, they haven't been tested for safety and could be a fire hazard.
- **Don't overload outlets:** Overloaded outlets are a common cause of fires. Only plug one power strip or one high-wattage appliance into each outlet at a time.
- **Water your real tree daily:** Dry trees are a serious fire hazard.
- **Use battery-operated candles:** Almost half of all decoration fires are started by candles. Unattended candles are the cause of one in five home candle fires.
- **Protect your electrical cords from damage:** Don't pinch them through doorways, windows or under furniture. Don't place them under rugs or near heat sources.
- **When you go to sleep, so should your decorations:** Turn off, unplug and extinguish all decorations when they aren't attended. Half of home fire deaths occur between the hours of 11 p.m. and 7 a.m.

For more safety tips this holiday season, visit evergy.com/holidaysafety.

<https://stage.mediaroom.com/evergy/2024-12-03-Evergy-Urges-Holiday-Light-and-Decoration-Safety>