

HOLIDAY HOME SAFETY TIPS CHECKLIST

Minimize fire risk

- Spread out devices across electric outlets and ensure the devices plugged in do not exceed 15-20 amperage
- Distance decorations from heat sources
- Check your fire extinguisher pressure and replace it when needed
- Clean your cooking vents, exhaust fans, ducts, and filters

Test smoke and carbon monoxide detectors

- Test detectors monthly
- Replace batteries with 9V, AA, or AAA batteries at the start of winter and halfway through the following year
- Replace detectors over 10 years old

Maintain your fireplace

- Remove newly formed creosote with a drop cloth and liquid creosote remover
- Install a spark guard on the fireplace opening to prevent spark fires
- Contact a professional chimney sweep to remove older and glazed creosote buildup

Monitor heat sources

- Maintain 3 ft+ around radiators and space heaters
- Place heat sources on level surfaces
- Schedule regular professional maintenance of heating systems

Inspect lights, wiring, and outlets

- Check light decorations for frayed wires, broken bulbs, and cracked sockets
- Use lights for the right purpose (indoor lights inside and outdoor lights outside)
- Ensure outlets can handle the load capacity of lights plugged in
- Encase your lighting wiring in a conduit to prevent rodents from chewing them

Prep and care for your tree

- Water your tree throughout the holiday
- Opt for LED lights instead of incandescent bulbs
- Turn off tree lights at the end of the day

Safely secure decor

- Ensure that all decorations are securely fastened and will not easily come loose and fall
- Use cable clips, tape, or cord covers to secure cords and prevent them from creating tripping hazards

Child- and pet-proof decor

- Use decorations that are less likely to shatter if knocked over and that do not have small, easily digestible parts
- Use a sturdy tree stand and anchor the tree to a wall or ceiling for added stability
- Keep toxic greenery away from reach

Practice kitchen safety

- Use an outdoor fryer on a stable, flat surface, and thaw foods before deep-frying
- Use oven mitts and pot holders to protect your hands from burns
- Keep floors dry and ensure no overcrowding in the kitchen to prevent slips and falls
- Clean the hose of your gas stove with soap and water; that way, bubbles will start forming if there's a gas leak

Make anti-burglary plans and upgrades

- Strengthen entry points by upgrading locks, deadbolts, and reinforcing doors and windows
- Use timers for lights and electronics to create the appearance that someone is home, even when you're away

Clear walkways

- Use salt or sand against pavements to reduce the slipperiness of outdoor walkways
- Ensure clutter doesn't block walkways or create tripping hazards
- Create accessible pathways, entrances, doorways, and hallways are accessible enough for wheelchairs and walkers

