**Purchasing Tips**

- Always buy electrical equipment that displays a label indicating it has undergone independent testing by a nationally recognized testing laboratory such as Underwriters Laboratories (UL), Intertek (ETL), or Canadian Standards Association (CSA).
- Only make purchases from trusted retailers to avoid the risk of purchasing counterfeit products.
- Be sure to buy decorations according to your intended use outdoors or indoors.
- Send warranty and product registration forms to manufacturers in order to be notified promptly in the event of a product recall.

**Natural and Artificial Trees**

- When buying a natural tree, look for one that is well-hydrated with vibrant green needles that are hard to pluck and don’t break easily from its branches.
- Look for a trunk sticky with sap when purchasing a natural tree.
- For natural trees, be sure your tree stand holds plenty of water so you can keep it hydrated.
- According to the American Christmas Tree Association, artificial trees cost 70% less over 10 years.
- If you use an artificial tree, choose one that is tested and labeled as fire resistant.

**Light-Emitting Diode (LED) vs. Incandescent Holiday Lights**

- LED lights last up to 20 times longer than traditional incandescent lights.
- LEDs generate less heat—which translates into greater energy-efficiency.
- LEDs are made with epoxy lenses, not glass and are much more durable.
- LEDs are initially more expensive, but will recover some of the cost through energy savings.
- Incandescent holiday lights burn more brightly than LEDs.