

Wrapping Up the Holiday Season



The **Electrical Safety Foundation International** hopes your holiday season is filled with friends, family, and safety. To help keep safety a holiday tradition in your home in the future, **ESFI** is reminding you of these post-holiday tips:

- ❖ Holiday decorations are meant for temporary use. Leaving your decorations up for extended periods leaves wires unnecessarily exposed to the elements, which can decrease the product's shelf life and increase the risk of electrical hazards.
- ❖ With time, Christmas trees continue to dry out making them increasingly flammable. Trees decorated with holiday lights have an increased risk because they're in direct contact with an electrical source. Check with your local community to find a recycling program through which to dispose of your tree early in the new year.
- ❖ Always unplug decorations by using the gripping area. Pulling on the cord could damage the wire and present a shock or fire hazard.
- ❖ As you take down holiday lights, inspect the wiring and discard any that have cracked, frayed, or appear to have damaged wire insulation.
- ❖ Make sure to label or store indoor decorations separate from those intended for outdoor use.
- ❖ Store electrical decorations in a dry area that is not accessible by children or pets.



For more information on how to safely wrap up the holidays and other electrical safety resources for use throughout the year, visit www.esfi.org. or contact us at info@esfi.org or (703) 841-3229.