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](http://www.esfi.org), or contact us at [info@esfi.org](mailto:info@esfi.org) or (703) 841-3229.