

# Safety for all decorating seasons

It doesn't matter what holiday you are celebrating, it's all about staying safe no matter where you are. Here are a few tips to keep you and your loved ones safe during any holiday season and beyond. Your friends at Eau Claire Energy Cooperative wish all a safe and happy holiday season.

1. When decorating outside, look up and check that you and any equipment, such as ladders, are at least 10 feet away from overhead power lines.
2. Get a sure footing and use proper equipment, such as sturdy ladders, if mounting decorations on rooftops or rooflines.
3. Inspect all electrical cords for frays, cracking or spare wires – they can cause serious shock or even start a fire.
4. Follow care instructions that accompany your electrical decorations.
5. Don't overload electrical cords and outlets. Don't allow cords to run through water or under rugs.



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6. Keep cords out of hallways to avoid tripping hazards.
7. Turn off all electrical decorations and lights before leaving home or going to sleep.
8. Make sure all electrical decorations used outside are marked for use outdoors, and have the Underwriters Laboratory (UL) approved labels.
9. Keep candles away from drapes and other flammable materials. Do not leave them unattended.
10. Keep little children and pets safe around decorations. Don't leave items around where they can be reached or chewed.



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