



From the Town of Berlin Electric Department

The holidays are the most wonderful time of the year.

It's also the time for decorations, Christmas trees and a large array of holiday lighting displays. Christmas lights add beauty and a real holiday spirit to the season, yet they can also drain your electricity and create safety issues. Here are some electrical safety tips to ensure your holidays stay bright.

- 1. Plan your displays accordingly. Prior to decorating, determine how many outlets are available and where they are located.**
- 2. Inspect all electrical decorations for damage before use. Cracked or damaged sockets, loose or bare wires and loose connections may cause a serious shock, even start a fire.**
- 3. Match power needs (amperage) of electrical products with amperage rating of extension cords.**
- 4. When putting up outdoor decorations, exercise caution when decorating near power lines. Keep yourself and your equipment at least 10 feet from power lines.**
- 5. Avoid overloading outlets and only plug one high-wattage appliance into each outlet. Overloaded outlets are a common cause of holiday fires.**
- 6. Never connect more than three strings of incandescent lights. More than three strands may not only trip a circuit breaker, but also can cause a fire.**
- 7. Make sure spotlights used to illuminate decorations are well-ventilated, protected from weather and a safe distance from flammable items.**
- 8. Always unplug electrical decorations before replacing bulbs or fuses.**
- 9. Turn off all indoor and outdoor electrical decorations before leaving home or going to sleep.**
- 10. To avoid problems, always purchase electrical decorations and lights from reputable retailers.**