

## Candles and Children

- Keep candles up high and out of reach of children.
- Do not use candles in places where they could be knocked over by children.
- Never leave a young child unattended in a room with a lighted candle.
- Don't allow children or teens to have candles in their bedrooms.
- Store candles, matches and lighters up high - out of children's sight and reach.

## During Power Outages

- Try to avoid carrying a lit candle.
- Don't use a lit candle when searching for items in a confined space.
- Never use a candle for a light when checking pilot lights or fueling equipment such as a kerosene lamp or lantern.

source: [www.mygreathome.com](http://www.mygreathome.com)

A consumer reminder from the



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Consumer Talk . . .

Light up  
the  
holidays -  
the safe  
way



Department of Energy



It's holiday season again - that special time of year when you brighten your home with colorful lights. Although decorating with electric lighting helps you create a cheerful atmosphere, it also brings an increased risk of accidental fire.

Here are some important safety tips to help you avoid electrical fires, overloaded circuits and other holiday fire hazards both outside and inside your home.

### Outside Lights

- Always buy lights and electrical decorations bearing the name of an independent testing lab, and follow the manufacturer's instructions for installation and maintenance.
- Never use seasonal lighting outside your home unless it is specifically labeled for outdoor use.
- Never secure the wiring of outdoor lighting with staples or nails - or place lights on sharp hooks or nails.
- Do not close doors or windows on extension cords, or mount lights in any way that can damage the cord's wire insulation.
- Carefully inspect new and previously used light strings and replace damaged items before plugging lights in. Never overload extension cords.

### Inside Lights

- Keep kids and pets away from light strings and electrical decorations.
- Unplug all holiday lighting before leaving the house or when going to bed.
- Make sure the lamps do not rest on the supply cord or on any wire.
- Avoid covering lights with cloth, paper or any material that is not part of the lighting.
- Throw away any lighting that shows cut, damaged or frayed wire insulation or cords. Also discard lights with cracks in lamp holders, loose connections or exposed copper wire.
- Virtually all holiday lighting is provided with overload fuse protection. A blown fuse indicates an overload or short-circuit situation. When this occurs, unplug lights from the outlet immediately and replace the blown fuse.
- If the replacement fuse blows, a short circuit may be present. Either throw the light string away - or return it to the retailer if new.
- Take the lights down when the holidays are over. Seasonal lighting is not intended for permanent installation or use.

### Candle Fire - Beauty or a Beast?

The warm glow of holiday candlelight is beautiful, but can be a severe fire hazard. Since December is the peak month for candle fires, put safety first when lighting any holiday candle. Here are a few safety tips to observe.

- NEVER use candles to decorate your Christmas tree!
- Keep candles away from decorations and other combustible materials.
- Extinguish all candles when leaving the room or going to sleep.
- Don't place candles in windows, where blinds and curtains can close over them.
- Use sturdy candleholders that won't tip over easily and are large enough to collect dripping wax.
- Remember, a candle is an open flame and can easily ignite nearby combustible materials - such as clothing, books, paper or any flammable liquid.
- Keep candlewicks trimmed to one quarter inch and extinguish taper and **pillar** candles when they are within two inches of the holder. Votive candles should be put out before the last half-inch of wax starts to melt.

