

Electric Safety

Electricity travels in a path called a circuit. Your house is part of a circuit that begins at a power plant. When you flick a switch to turn on a light or start an appliance, you complete the circuit.

Electricity will not leave the circuit unless it can find an easier path to the ground. If you touch an energized wire or faulty appliance while you are grounded, the electricity will pass through you to the ground, causing a shock that can be fatal. Following a few simple safety rules can prevent injury:

- o Check outlets and extension cords to make sure they aren't overloaded.
- o Examine electrical cords to make sure they aren't frayed, damaged or placed under rugs or carpets.
- o Make sure that the proper wattage light bulbs are being used in light fixtures.

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A consumer reminder from the



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Consumer Talk . . .



Tips on Holiday Lighting



Department of Energy

Tips on Holiday Lighting

Decorate safely this holiday season by following these smart safety tips:



- Use only lights that have been certified by Philippine Normal Standard (PNS) or Efficient Lighting Initiative (ELI). Newer light strings have fused plugs and are preferable to older types that lack fuses.



- Use non-flammable decorations, and water real trees frequently.

- Check each set of lights carefully for any signs of socket damage, frayed or scorched wire, loose connections or damaged plugs.



- Don't overload electrical outlets. Too many plugs in one outlet may create enough heat to start a fire.

- If other lights in the house dim when the tree is lighted, disconnect other items on the same circuit while the tree lights are on. If a fuse blows, it may be a warning that circuits are overloaded.



- Unplug cords when you string lights.



- Avoid using extension cords. If you do use them, select the shortest cord possible and use heavy-duty cords. Use no more than three standard-size sets of lights per extension cord.



- Do not place cords under rugs or in traffic areas, and don't use staples or nails to attach cords to baseboards or other surfaces.

