

## **Holiday Lighting**

Inside and outside the house, twinkling dancing lights bring smiles to the faces of children and adults alike. Sometimes when we get into the festivities, it is easy to let safety slip our minds. When you put up the lights this year, don't forget to put safety first!

### **Lighting Safety Tips**

- Consider using fewer lights when decorating. You will use less energy and reduce your energy bill.
- Inspect all lights and extension cords before decorating. Replace any that are fraying or otherwise damaged.
- Pay special attention to lights, cords or decorations that may have been damaged from winter weather conditions.
- Use only lights that have been certified by a recognized testing and certification organization such as CSA (Canadian Standards Association).
- All lights sold in Canada are marked clearly for either indoor or outdoor use.
- Never use indoor lights outdoors.
- Follow manufacturer's guidelines for stringing light sets together. As a general rule, string no more than three standard-size sets of lights together.
- Do not overload extension cords or electrical receptacles.
- Unplug all holiday lights when you go to sleep or leave home.
- Automatic light timers can be used to ensure that lights are not left on. They are available for both out door or indoor applications.
- Roll up excess electrical cords so they will not be accidentally pulled or tripped over.
- Never use a stapler to secure electrical cords.
- When replacing a light bulb, make sure that the replacement bulb is of equal or lesser wattage than that recommended by the manufacturer.
- Never let young children unplug or plug in the lights.
- Never yank on the cord to unplug lights. Pull the plug itself from the outlet.