

Keep the fires in the fireplace

December is a time to be merry and bright. But brightness can also bring a higher risk of fire. Decorated trees and lighting-related fires cause about \$12 million in damage every year.¹

Follow these tips and light your tree without the fear of fire.



1. Don't let your tree go thirsty. Refilling the water every day will help it last.



2. Buy fresh. A freshly cut tree will have a sticky trunk and the needles won't fall off in bunches when touched.



3. Keep your tree away from heat. Heated air from vents or fireplaces dry them out. A single, shooting spark can spell disaster.



4. Inspect lights before using. Check for exposed wires and broken sockets before decorating. Never plug in outdoor lights when the socket or prongs are wet from rain, snow or ice.



5. Always turn off the lights. Never leave a lit tree unattended. Trees can ignite in seconds.



6. Recycle when you're done. Don't dispose of tree branches by burning them in your fireplace or yard.



7. Blow out candles. Always remember to blow out candles before leaving or going to bed.



¹ <https://www.nfpa.org/education-and-research/research/nfpa-research/fire-statistical-reports/christmas-tree-fires>

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24002-Tree Safety Infographic-122024

