



# Fact Sheet

## Safety in the Festive Season

### Safety in the festive season

Christmas fairy lights, candles and decorations are some of the magic about this time of year. Prior to the festive season, take a few minutes to do some checks around your home and consider these safety tips.



### Decorative lights

Check your decorative lights as electrical cords often get tangled when lights are bundled away and are sometimes damaged in storage. Check before use and if wiring, cords or plugs appear damaged don't use them. When replacing or buying new lights ensure they have an Australian Standards label. When decorating your home for Christmas use indoor lights inside only. If you want to decorate the outside of your home, check the lights are suitable for that purpose and follow the installation instructions carefully.

### Candles

Ensure candles are in a safe, secure position, out of the reach of children and not left near flammable items such as decorations or wrapping paper.



### Power cords

All power cords should be tested according to Australian Standards or the manufacturers recommendations and if exposed to the elements, waterproof. Switch off decorative lights when you go to bed or go out for any significant period of time. Lights can generate significant heat so don't leave them on for prolonged periods of time or place them near paper trimmings or decorations.

### Power boards

Don't overload power boards or piggy back double adaptors when you're setting up fairy lights and other electric decorative ornaments. Make sure you use only one item per power socket.

### Away for holidays

If you are planning a holiday away from home ensure you notify family of your absence and make sure all power boards and switches are switched off and taps to your washing machine are turned off. In the Top End it is a good idea to clean up around your property for any rubbish that could become airborne missiles. In the Centre remove any combustible rubbish from around your property.

## Fire escape plans

Create a home fire escape plan and practise it with your family. If you have visitors make sure they know how to get out and do the same if you are visiting friends and family.

## Take care on the roads

If you are travelling on the road take care with speed limits and ensure you take appropriate rest stops when travelling long distances. Go to [Free downloads Firefighter tips](#) for some entertaining car games and tips on where to find more.

## Holiday season safety checklist

### Around the Home

- ✓ Check wiring on decorative lights (replace if damaged)
- ✓ Check outside power cords are waterproof
- ✓ Check power boards are not overloaded
- ✓ Check candles are in a safe secure spot where kids can't reach
- ✓ Complete and practise Home Fire Escape Plan

### Holiday away from Home

- ✓ Notify family of absence
- ✓ Check all power boards, switches and taps are turned off
- ✓ Clean up around home prior to travel
- ✓ Go to Firefighter Tips for Car Games