

Holiday/Winter Preparation Checklist

During the holidays people are usually preoccupied with celebrations and travels. Between cooking, holiday lights, and the longing for winter warmth making electrical safety a priority is very important. Be sure you take a look at this check list as the seasons change around the holidays.

- Did you double check smoke alarms for dead batteries and proper placement?
- Are you using your space heater safely? They need to be 3 feet away from anything, be plugged directly into the wall outlet and have no other electrical devices sharing that outlet
- When cooking, make sure not to leave electrical equipment unattended
- Are your kitchen appliances plugged into a GFCI outlet?
GFCI stands for ground fault circuit interrupter, simply, when this type of outlet is connected to a circuit it will detect different currents coming back to it as compared to the circuit it gives off. If a weaker current comes back to the GFCI than what's sent out, the GFCI will stop the current. This is a safety feature to prevent electric shock and electrocution. We especially use these outlets in bathrooms and kitchens where water is prominent, again to prevent electric shock
- Use lights approved for safe use by a nationally recognized testing laboratory. Never connect more than three strands of incandescent lights together
- Be sure never to overload an outlet for they can overheat and cause fire
- Did you check your extension cords for damage and proper rating for your intended use?

Post-Holiday Checklist

- Take down and put away all electric decorations after the holiday season
- Check for damaged wires, cracked sockets, or burned out bulbs. Discard broken or faulty lights
- Separate and label indoor and outdoor decorations
- Store decorations in a dry location that is safely out of reach of children and pets
- Send warranty and product registration forms for new decorations to manufacturers in order to be notified about product recalls
- Remove and properly dispose of Christmas trees. The best way to dispose of a tree is to bring it to a recycling center or contact a community pickup service