

Decorate Your Home Safely This Year

The holidays are coming, and that means holiday decorations! Making your home beautiful with twinkling lights, trees, wreaths and more is fun, but must be done safely.

Taking proper precautions, both inside and outside your home, can prevent electrical hazards. Keep these three words in mind while decorating, especially when using equipment like ladders and long tools that extend your reach:

STOP When decorating outdoors, be aware that overhead electrical equipment poses a risk, especially if you are using ladders, long tools or aerial lifts.

LOOK Look around for potential electrical hazards and make a plan to avoid electric utility equipment.

LIVE Make sure nothing, including ladders and decorations, can come within 10 feet of any overhead power lines. Stay aware and stay safe.



Tips to stay safe while decorating for the holidays:

- If a decoration or other object comes in contact with electrical equipment, do not attempt to remove it and call 9-1-1 immediately.
- Be sure that lights and any tools you are using to hang them are completely within your control at all times and cannot contact electric equipment. Always carry your ladder horizontally when moving it from one area to another.
- Never throw lights or other decorations into trees or other tall structures.
- Do not place lights, inflatables or other decorations under or near electric power lines.
- Use lights inspected and approved by Underwriters Laboratory – look for the “UL” on the tag.

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More tips on staying safe around electricity and near power lines and equipment are available on FirstEnergy's "*Stop. Look. Live.*" safety website at firstenergycorp.com/publicsafety.



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