

Holiday Safety Tips

FOR CHILDREN AND PARENTS FROM THE INSTITUTE FOR CHILDHOOD PREPAREDNESS

The holidays are a wonderful time of the year filled with cheer, presents, and fun. But holiday celebrations also lead to distraction and can be dangerous for young children. Parents should take time to check their surroundings for potentially dangerous items, and teach children the importance of holiday safety.

Keep children happy and injury-free this holiday season by following these safety tips:

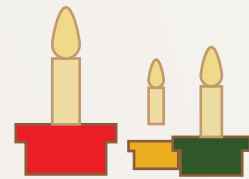
Safe Decorating



MAKE SURE all trimmings, tinsel, and artificial icicles are lead-free. Keep these items up high and out of reach of small children.



ELIMINATE decorations that are tiny or that have small parts, as they can cause choking in young children.



CHOOSE LED or flameless candles to avoid house fires.

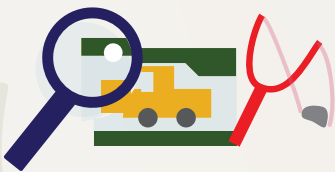


Plants such as mistletoe and holly berries **ARE POISONOUS**. Keep them away and out of the reach of young children.



BE AWARE of singing holiday cards that contain button batteries. These batteries can cause damage to the esophagus if ingested by young children.

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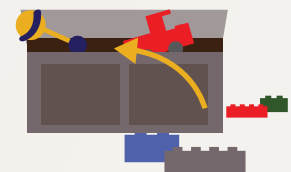
INSPECT all toys before purchasing. Avoid toys with flying parts, shooters, and sharp edges or points. Toys should also be sturdy and able to withstand rough play.



Parents should inspect toys for **AGE, SKILL LEVEL, SAFETY, AND DEVELOPMENTAL ABILITY** before allowing children to play.



If you're buying a toy for a child with special needs, **CONSIDER ALL SENSORY ISSUES**, and check for a toy's movement and texture to make sure it's safe.



SUPERVISE children while they're playing with toys. Always clean up and store toys away after use to prevent falling and injuries.



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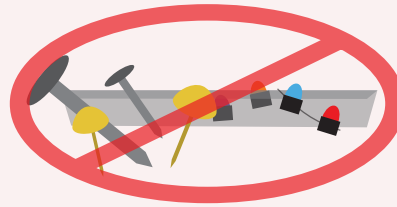
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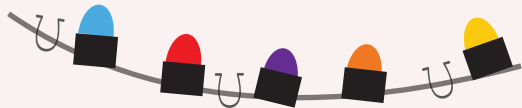
Outdoor Safety



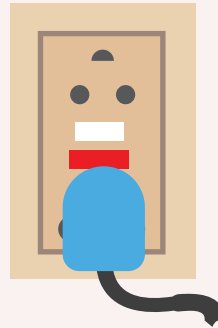
If you're climbing a ladder to hang lights, **MAKE SURE** children stay inside and away from the ladder.



DO NOT hang lights with metal tacks or nails, and do not wrap lights around metal gutters, as this can cause electric shock.



When hanging Christmas lights outside, make sure the lights are **SECURELY FASTENED** so children cannot tug on them.



MAKE SURE that outdoor lights are plugged into circuits with ground fault circuit interrupters to avoid electric shock.

Travel Safety



PROPERLY INSTALL car seats and boosters before leaving the house.



BRING PLENTY of books, toys, and games to keep children entertained.



MAKE SURE children don't get into medicine cabinets or other dangerous areas.



MAKE SURE children sleep in a safe travel crib or bassinet.



STICK TO YOUR ROUTINE. Go to bed and wake up at the same time every day.



MAKE SURE children use the bathroom or have a fresh diaper change before leaving home.



KEEP YOUR EYES ON THE ROAD, and look out for intoxicated drivers. If you see something suspicious, say something. Don't be afraid to report strange behaviors to 9-1-1.



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