

# HEALTH CARE FACILITY HOLIDAY DECORATING

## Decorate Rooms with a Holiday Flair For Fire Safety



**Inside Decorating** - Holiday decorating is a special tradition. But many decorations also create fire hazards. Did you know that December and January are traditionally the months with the highest number of fires? Putting fire safety first assures that the holiday spirit lasts until the holidays are over. Prevent tragedy by following these tips for fire safe decorating.

- \* Fire-retardant decorations are preferred. Flame resistant material:
  - must not** exceed 20% of the total area of walls and ceilings inside any room of a non-sprinklered facility.
  - must not** exceed 30% of the total area of walls and ceilings inside any room of a sprinklered facility.
  - must not** exceed 50% of the total walls and ceilings inside a resident's sleeping room, having a capacity not exceeding 4 people in a sprinklered facility.
- \* **Avoid** combustible decorations concentrated in a single area on a wall that will lead to rapid fire growth.
- \* Crepe paper and pyroxylin plastic decorations **must** be documented fire retardant.
- \* Natural cut trees shall not be permitted
- \* Artificial Christmas trees must be effectively flame-retardant treated.
- \* Place artificial trees at least 3 feet away from heat sources such as heat vents, fireplaces, and sunny windows.
- \* **No** extension cords.
- \* Circuit breaker power strips are recommended for a safe electrical power source, **do not** connect one power strip to another power strip.
- \* **No** lit candles.
- \* Buy lights that are UL listed, then plug them in for 15 minutes before decorating. Check for excessive heat or damaged wiring.
- \* Check your lights for cracked or frayed wires and loose or broken plugs.

- \* **Avoid** over loading light strings. **Do not** connect more than 200 incandescent miniature lights or 50 large screw type bulbs together. You can safely connect 500 LED lights together. Small lights are safer because they produce less heat.
- \* Turn off and unplug lights at night. Grasp the cord by the plug, **never** pull on the cord.
- \* **Do not** block exits, fire pull stations or fire extinguishers with decorations or Christmas trees.
- \* **Do not** hang decorations on light fixtures, smoke detectors, or sprinkler heads.
- \* Decorations on doors should not prevent their function or cover the identifications as the means of egress.

**Outside Decorating** - Remember to be fire safe outside as well as inside. A fire that starts close to a building can spread to the structure and threaten lives.

- \* **Do not** use indoor lights for outdoor decorating. A label on the box will tell you if they are safe to use outside.
- \* Limit the use of heavy duty extension cords.
- \* Be sure extension and light cords do not create a tripping hazard.
- \* Turn off and unplug lights at night.
- \* **Do not** block the exit discharge with holiday decorations.

This may be copied for resident's family members.

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