

Maimonides Children's Hospital

Brooklyn's *Only* Pediatric Trauma Center

Safe Holiday Decorating

Each year in the U.S., more than 3,000 children are seen in emergency departments for nonelectric holiday decorating injuries, and more than 130,000 with a burn injury.

Keep Yourself and Your Loved Ones Safe this Holiday Season with These Easy Tips

Trees

- Live trees should be watered well and have needles that are hard to pull from the branches
- Place trees at least 3 feet from heat sources like radiators, candles, fireplaces, lights, and heating vents
- Decorate trees with children in mind, placing breakable or sharp ornaments out of reach
- Ensure that your artificial tree is marked as "Fire Resistant"



Electronics

- Check for and do not use strands of lights with frayed wires and broken or loose bulbs
- Only use extension cords and strands of lights that have been tested and approved by Underwriters Laboratories and are marked with the UL logo
- Be sure that outdoor lights are meant for the outdoors and are plugged into properly grounded outlets
- Do not run extension cords under rugs
- Do not overload power strips
- Turn off all lights and electronics before bed or leaving home



Candles

- Keep candles at least 3 feet away from anything flammable, such as curtains or furniture
- Do not leave burning candles unattended or out of sight
- Put candles, lighters, and matches out of reach of the reach of children
- Use candle holders that are sturdy and nonflammable

Poisons

- Holiday plants and greenery like Mistletoe berries, Poinsettias, Jerusalem Cherry, and Holly Berry can be poisonous if ingested by children or pets
- Alcohol and baking extracts should be kept out of reach
- Artificial snow should be used in a well-ventilated area, as it can be harmful if inhaled

Call the Poison Control Center at **800.222.1222** or **212-POISONS** (**212.764.7667**) for questions or concerns

Contact an Injury Prevention Professional with questions about prevention strategies or programs for your community

718.283.2828 injuryprevention@maimonidesmed.org