

The Building Inspector

Newsletter



Holiday Issue



In appreciation of our association during the past year, we extend our very Best Wishes for a Happy Holiday Season and Peace throughout the New Year.



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Sugar Spice Nuts

1 tablespoon egg white
2 cups pecans or walnuts
1/4 cup sugar
1 tablespoon cinnamon

Heat oven to 300 degrees.
Mix egg white and coat nuts.
Mix sugar and cinnamon in large bowl.

With slotted spoon remove nuts from egg white and put in sugar mixture, coating the nuts.

Place on ungreased cookie sheet and bake 20 minutes



Christmas Tree Safety Tips

1. When decorating your tree, always use lights listed by a testing laboratory. Some lights are designed only for indoor or outdoor use, but not both. Larger tree lights should also have some type of reflector rather than a bare bulb.
2. Follow the manufacturer's instructions on how to use tree lights. Any string of lights with worn, frayed or broken cords or loose bulb connections should not be used. Connect no more than three strands of push-in bulbs and a maximum of 50 bulbs for screw-in bulbs.
3. Always unplug Christmas tree lights before leaving home or going to bed.
4. Bring outdoor electrical lights inside after the holidays to prevent hazards and extend their life.
5. Never use lit candles to decorate a tree, and make sure any lit candles in the room are placed well away from tree branches.
6. Try to keep live trees as moist as possible by giving them plenty of water daily. Do not purchase a tree that is dry or dropping needles. Check for fresh, green needles. And place your tree in a sturdy tree stand designed not to tip over.
7. If you purchase an artificial tree, be sure it is labeled as fire-retardant.
8. Children are fascinated with Christmas trees. Keep a watchful eye on them when around the tree and do not let them play with the wiring or lights. Store matches and lighters up high, out of reach, preferably in a locked cabinet.
9. Make sure the tree is at least three feet (one meter) away from any heat source, such as fireplaces and radiators. Try to



position the tree near an outlet so that cords are not running long distances. Do not place the tree where it may block exits.

10. Safely dispose of the tree when it begins dropping needles. Dried-out trees are highly flammable and should not be left in a house or garage, or placed against the house.

For more information go to www.nsc.org

Poisonous Plants



Mistletoe and Poinsettia You find these two plants decorating your home for the holidays. But they are poisonous and should be kept well out of reach of children and pets. These plants will cause nausea, vomiting, cramps and diarrhea. They may also irritate the mouth, tongue and throat or cause a skin rash. If your pet or child is poisoned by a Christmas plant, you have to react quickly. Remove any trace of the plant from the mouth. If the victim is choking or can't breathe you should call 911 immediately. If breathing is not impaired, you can call the Poison Control Center. If you take the victim to the emergency room, take some of the plant (or ideally the entire plant) with you so that emergency workers know what they are dealing with. Poisoning from plants is typically a slow process so you have time to deal with it when you spot it. There is danger if you don't see it right away because repeated exposure to poisoning from the plants can cause extensive damage. You need to monitor your children and pets when they are around the plants.



Fireplace Safety

What better time to gather around the fireplace with the family than the Holidays. Here are some safety tips:

- Never burn charcoal or use a hibachi in your fireplace. Both produce deadly carbon monoxide.
- Protect against sparks by enclosing a fireplace's opening with glass doors or a sturdy screen.
- Never close the flue while a fire is still smoldering. Carbon monoxide could build up.
- Never use gasoline, kerosene or lighter fluid to start a fire. Burn only dry, seasoned hardwood. For extra safety, light fires with long-stemmed matches.
- Have your fireplace and chimney inspected annually. They should be properly vented and free of blockages. Have cleaned as needed.
- Protect the top of your chimney with a guard that keeps out birds and small animals and keeps in sparks that could ignite your roof.
- Keep flammables such as newspapers, magazines, rugs and carpeting well away from the fireplace.
- Remove holiday decorations from the fireplace and mantle before building a fire to avoid having the decorations ignite.
- Teach children to stay back from the fireplace.
- Never leave a fire unattended.
- Keep a fire extinguisher handy.



Candle Safety

December is the peak month for candle fires, with nearly twice the average number of incidents. So remember:

- Extinguish all candles when leaving the room or going to sleep.
- Keep candles away from items that can catch fire.
- Use candleholders that are sturdy, won't tip over easily, are made from a material that can't burn and are large enough to collect dripping wax.
- Don't place lit candles in windows, where blinds and curtains can close over them.
- Place candleholders on a sturdy, uncluttered surface and do not use candles in places where they could be knocked over by children or pets.
- Keep candles and all open flames away from flammable liquids.
- Keep candlewicks trimmed to one-quarter inch and extinguish taper and pillar candles when they get to within two inches of the holder or decorative material. Votives and containers should be extinguished before the last half-inch of wax starts to melt.
- Avoid candles with combustible items embedded in them.