

**Let Your Holiday Sparkle & Shine.**  
Keep Fire & Electrical Safety on Your Mind!

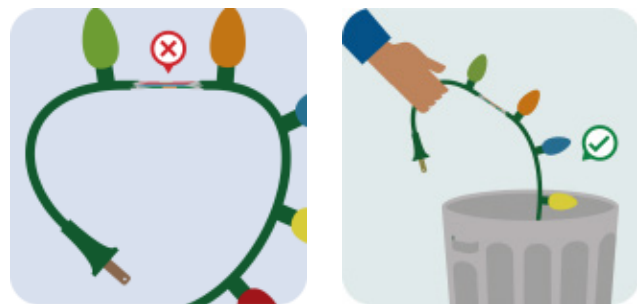




# Electrical Safety... Unplug this Holiday Season

## Holiday Lights

- ✓ Use only holiday lights, decorations and extension cords that have the symbol of a recognized safety standards agency such as CSA or ULC. This mark shows it has been safety tested and approved for use in Ontario.



- ✓ Before use, inspect and replace lights that have frays or nicks. Replace missing or broken bulbs. Exposed wires may result in a potential shock or fire hazard.

- ✓ Follow the manufacturer's instructions for the maximum number of light strands that can be connected together.
- ✓ Read the packaging to determine how much power lights and decorations will use. Newer LED lights use very little electricity and are a safer alternative to incandescent bulbs.
- ✓ Lights, cords and decorations are RATED FOR either indoor OR outdoor use.
- ✓ **Never** use indoor rated items outdoors!
- ✓ Keep all decorations at least 1 metre (3 feet) away from heating equipment or an open flame (candle, fireplace, portable heater etc.).
- ✓ Turn off and unplug all lights and decorations before leaving home or going to bed.

## Outdoor Lights

- ✓ Outdoor lights and extension cords are made to withstand cold temperatures and wet conditions. Use only lights rated for outdoor use outside.
- ✓ Plug outdoor lights into a Ground Fault Circuit Interrupter (GFCI) outlet. If you don't have GFCI's get a certified electrician to install them.
- ✓ Ensure all lights and outlets are in a safe, location. **Avoid** locations vulnerable to water or ice.
- ✓ **Avoid** trip hazards, keep lights/wires away from walkways and driveways.
- ✓ Install lights and secure them in place using INSULATED staples or plastic clips.

### 2-wire Plug



### 3-wire Plug



- ✓ Be alert to overhead power lines when hanging lights – prevent your ladder from turning into a shock hazard.
- ✓ Use only extension cords that are properly grounded with a 3 prong end and are rated for outdoor use.

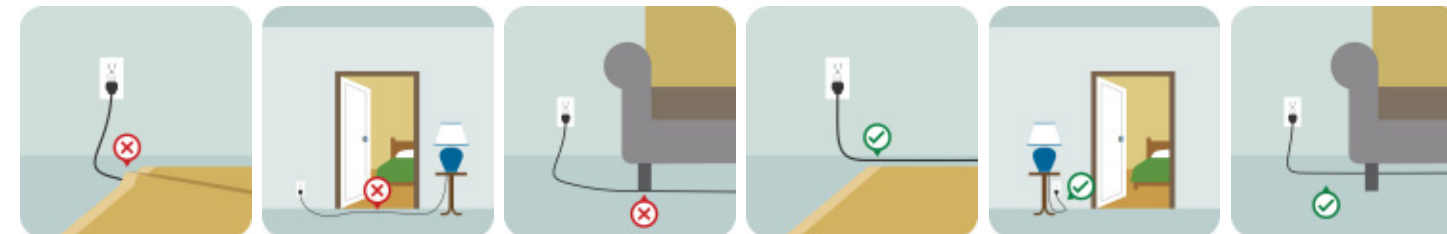
## Extension and Electrical Cords

**FACT :** Extension cords and power bars are for temporary use only. Never replace permanent wiring with an extension cord.



- ✓ Before use check for any damaged, brittle, cracked, frayed, nicked or kinked electrical cords. Also check for bare wires, loose prongs and splits or gaps in the cord's jacket/insulation.
- ✓ **Don't tape it, replace it!** Do not attempt to repair a damaged cord or electrical part yourself. Replace it instead with an approved Canadian Standards Association (CSA) product.
- ✓ **Never** link multiple extension cords and/or power bars together. Use an extension cord or power bar long enough for the job.

- ✓ Check the cord's label for its rating capacity which shows the amount of power it can deliver. Be sure the rating capacity is the same as, or higher than the number of watts needed for the product being plugged into the cord.
- ✓ **Avoid** running electrical cords under a carpet, rug or across a doorway which can damage and overheat the cord and cause a fire.



Check with Region of Peel Waste Management to learn how to safely discard unwanted electrical items:

<https://www.peelregion.ca/scripts/waste/how-to-sort-your-waste.pl?action=search&query=String%2C+garden+or+Christmas+lights;>

## Plugs and Electrical Outlets

**Fact:** Overloaded electrical circuits are a major cause of residential fires. Help lower your risk of electrical fires by not overloading your electrical system.

- ✓ Replace any broken or missing switch plate covers right away.
- ✓ **Never** overload an outlet by plugging in too many items at one time. Use an approved power bar.
- ✓ Plug only one small appliance into an outlet at a time. Plug appliances directly into outlet. Never use extension cords.
- ✓ Install Ground Faults Circuit Interrupters (GFCIs) in your bathroom, laundry room, and outdoors.
- ✓ Test GFCIs regularly according to the manufacturers' instructions (usually monthly).