



# Residential Care and Assisted Living Newsletter Special Edition

December 2018



## Frequently Asked Questions About Holiday Décor Answered By: The Fire Life Safety Team

Q: Can a facility have a live or cut Christmas tree inside?

A: No, the use of live trees and other decorations (such as wreaths) is prohibited. However, facilities can have artificial trees and other decorations if they are labeled or otherwise identified, or certified by the manufacturer, as being flame retardant.

Q: Can we decorate resident room doors with wrapping paper?

A: No. The addition of flammable decorations creates a flashover hazard that can overwhelm the sprinkler system.

Q: Can we decorate the *inside* of our facility?

A: Yes. All lights and decorations must be UL listed, in good condition and plugged directly into an outlet. Plugging one light string into the end of another (“piggybacking”) and the use of multiple adaptors, extension cords and power strips are prohibited. Placing lights around exits or doors is prohibited as this masks the exit and it is no longer plainly visible. Hanging décor in drooping curves (“swag”) is also prohibited.



Q: Can we decorate the *outside* of our facility?

A: Yes. All lights must be UL listed. Use only light strings that are rated for outdoor use - light strings are rated for indoor use, outdoor use or sometimes both. Check the packaging for the recommended amount of strings that can be plugged into each other to prevent overloading the strings. Check all decorations for physical damage such as broken light sockets or cracked insulation around the wires.

Q: Can we use extension cords on the outside of the facility to run our decorations?

A: Yes. Use only extension cords rated for outdoor use, and of the proper length to prevent plugging one cord into another cord, known as piggybacking, and a gauge heavy enough to handle the loads expected to be placed on it. The use of power strips and multiple electrical adaptors is prohibited in order to prevent overloading the circuit.



Precautions: Turn off all lights and decorations at bedtime or when leaving your facility. Open flames (such as candles) inside of a facility are strictly prohibited.

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Everyone be safe, have a happy holiday season and a prosperous new year!

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