

Top 20 Holiday Safety Tips

As the holidays are upon us, the team at Titan HST is sharing these tips to help you remain safe throughout the festive seasons.

Holiday Decorations

Decorating is one of the most enjoyable ways to celebrate the holidays; however, keep in mind how to decorate in a safe manner.

- **Festive Plants.** Mistletoe, holly berries, and other festive plants are poisonous and can cause severe reactions. Use artificial plants, which are readily available and life-like, which brings the holiday mood without causing any potential harm.
- **Holiday or Christmas Trees (real).** If you use a real tree, place it at least 3 feet from any heat source such as a fireplace, electric heater, or radiators. Cut the tree to expose fresh wood, which helps the adsorption of water. Also, make sure you have a tree stand that can hold water and check it daily. When the tree is dry, remove it as soon as possible.
- **Holiday or Christmas Trees (artificial).** Even if you use an artificial tree, it is important to remember that you need to inspect the tree for broken parts and ensure that it is UL certified.
- **Lights.** Inspect your lights before you put them up. Look for exposed wires and broken bulbs. Do not put broken string lights on your trees or on exposed surfaces.
 - Use the proper lights for your needs, indoor lights for indoors and outdoor lights for outdoors
 - Do not use too many light strands on one socket
 - Do not use nails, of tacks when hanging lights and keep the lights out of standing water
 - Turn off lights before leaving the house or building

Candles and Fireplaces

The use of fireplaces and candles set a wonderful mood; however, the number of decorations, wrapping paper, and other combustibles increase your risk of fire. Each year, one-third of home decoration fires are started by candles. Two of every five fires during the holidays are caused by decorations being too close to heat sources [according to the National Fire Protection Authority](#).

- Keep candles in holders that cannot be knocked over
- Use battery-operated candles in areas that are not closely monitored
- Never leave candles unattended
- Do not use candles near flammable decorations

Food Poisoning

The CDC estimates that millions of people get sick from food poisoning each year. This is preventable by following simple [food safety tips](#).

- Wash your hands thoroughly with soap and water before and after handling food
- Do not mix raw meat with cooked food or vegetables
- Use separate cutting boards for uncooked meats, do not use the same board for poultry and red meats
- Use a food thermometer to ensure that food is cooked to the right temperature
- Refrigerate all cooked foods within two hours of serving
- Discard any leftovers after four days

Road Safety

Here are some tips to arrive safely at your destination.

- Do not drive after drinking
- Do not drive drowsy. Studies have proven that drowsy driving is as dangerous as drunk driving.
- Leave early
- Plan for traffic
- Slow down and enjoy the drive
- Do not use your phone while driving

Wishing You All the Best

All of us at Titan HST wish you a safe and enjoyable holiday season!