

Christmas Home Safety Tips

Follow these 9 safety tips to prevent your festivities being cut short by a trip to casualty:

- 1. Buy children's gifts for the correct age group and from reputable retailers, and ensure they comply with safety standards (CE Mark).
- 2. Look out for small items that could pose a choking hazard to young children, including parts that have fallen off toys or from Christmas trees, button batteries, and burst balloons.
- 3. Christmas novelties are not toys, even if they resemble them. They do not have to comply with toy safety regulations. Display them out of children's reach.
- 4. Keep decorations and cards away from fires and other heat sources such as light fittings.
- 5. If you have old Christmas lights, buy new ones which will meet much higher safety standards, and don't let children play with lights (some have swallowed the bulbs).
- 6. Switch off Christmas lights and decorations before bed and leaving the house.
- 7. Take care not to overload sockets- Maximum 13 Amps per socket.
- 8. Beware of trailing cables and wires in the rush to connect new gadgets and appliances, and always read instructions.
- 9. Falls are the most common accidents so try to keep clutter to a minimum. Make sure stairs are well-lit and free from obstacles, especially if you have guests.

