

Christmas Safety Tips



A summary of helpful advice for the festive period:

Safety on the Road

Advice from the AA and RAC on driving in winter conditions:

- AA Winter checklist <https://www.theaa.com/driving-advice/seasonal/winter>
- AA Winter survival kit <https://www.theaa.com/driving-advice/seasonal/winter-checklist>
- RAC coping with cold, snow and ice. <https://www.rac.co.uk/drive/advice/winter-driving/driving-in-snow/>

Alcohol Awareness

Advice from the Department of Transport's **THINK!** Campaign:

- There is no excuse for drink driving
- If you're planning to drink alcohol, plan how to get home without driving
- Don't offer an alcoholic drink to someone you know is planning to drive
- Don't accept a lift from a driver you know has drunk alcohol
- Beware the morning after

For more information on **THINK!**, including the "morning after calculator" and dramatic videos, visit <http://think.direct.gov.uk/drink-driving.html>

For the RLSS UK's **Don't Drink and Drown** Campaign, visit <http://www.rlss.org.uk/about-us/campaigns/dont-drink-drown/>

Safety at Home

Christmas Trees

Use a sturdy base to display real Christmas trees and if possible add water to prevent your tree from drying out and increasing the risk of becoming a fire hazard. Watch this dramatic video of a dry Christmas tree burning. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=t_eHBqVYa8A

After use, it is inadvisable to burn the tree in a traditional fire as it can cause a lot of sparks. If you purchase an artificial tree, be sure to check the flame resistance information on the packaging. Place the tree away from any flammable sources such as the fire, electric heaters or candles.

Christmas Lights

Only buy Christmas lights marked with a reputable safety standard and remember not to overload electric sockets. Unplug all lights and other electrical appliances before going to bed at night or when leaving the house.

Only use outdoor lighting that is marked as suitable for exterior use. Use only exterior extension leads and fasten all leads securely to prevent damage if bad weather occurs. Moisture build up can cause issues too so place connections in a covered place or manually cover them.

Candles

Keep them well out of reach of children and pets on an appropriate candleholder placed on a stable, heat-resistant surface. Keep the candle wax pool free of wick trimmings, matches and debris as these can build up. Extinguish the flame if it comes too close to the holder or container and remember to place lighted candles at least 75mm apart. Never place a candle on top of a TV set and keep well away from curtains. Always extinguish unattended candles; before leaving the house or going to bed.

Fire Safety

Every home should have a smoke alarm. It should be checked regularly at Christmas with the increased risks. Avoid burning used wrapping paper in the fireplace as once crumpled up it can expand again quite quickly and be in danger of falling out of the fire. Strings with Christmas card displays look pretty but can be a danger if hung close to candles or fires as they also fall easily. As food and cooking are so important at Christmas, be sure to clean your oven thoroughly as the build-up of fat and deposits can ignite.

Safety at Work

Information on precautions when working plant in adverse weather conditions. Please click on the Plant - fixed and mobile button and view the PowerPoint on Winter Working. <http://www.safequarry.com/qnjac.aspx>

The Mineral Products Association is the trade association for the aggregates, asphalt, cement, concrete, dimension stone, lime, mortar and silica sand industries.

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