

15 December 2016

Put safety first with Christmas lights

Essential Energy is encouraging the public to install and disconnect Christmas light decorations safely this festive season.

General Manager Safety, HR and Environment, David Nardi, said some simple tips could help people to safely decorate their homes and keep their loved ones safe.

“We suggest inspecting Christmas lights for wear and tear before installing as the decorations are packed away for most of the year,” David said.

“Tell-tale signs of damage in electrical decorations include frayed cords, cracked insulation or loose connections – these should be replaced with new installations.

“Check that all globes are properly fitted and don’t use light sets with missing globes.”

When buying new festive lights, ensure they comply with the appropriate Australian Standards and follow the manufacturer’s directions for their use.

Essential Energy advises against overloading power boards or hanging Christmas lights near water, such as pools. Never string decorations on powerlines or house service line connections and ensure your premises is protected by an Earth Leakage Circuit Breaker (ELCB.)

“Remember to unplug your Christmas lights before going to bed and ensure smoke detectors in your home are in good working order,” David said.

“When dismantling and packing the lights away, be careful not to damage or tangle the decorations and store them in a cool, dry location out of the reach of children,” David said.

For information regarding electrical safety, visit www.essentialenergy.com.au/safety or call **13 23 91**.

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