

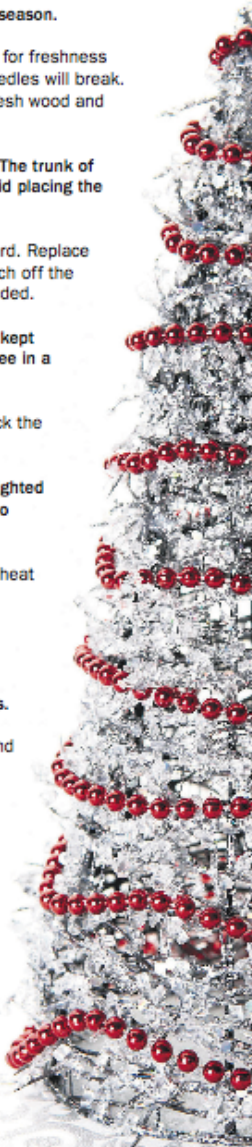
# A seasonal reminder from Cork City Fire Department

## 12 Christmas Fire Safety Tips

Christmas time is a great time of family and togetherness. However it can also be a time of increased fire risk. In order to have a fire safe Christmas please remember the following advice.



1. Have your chimney cleaned before the holiday season.
2. Purchase a non-shedding tree. Check the tree for freshness before purchase, fresh needles will bend, dry needles will break. Cut at least 25mm off the trunk, this exposes fresh wood and immediately place the tree in a bucket of water.
3. The tree should be mounted in a sturdy stand. The trunk of the tree should stand in a container of water. Avoid placing the tree close to a fireplace or radiator.
4. Ensure tree lights comply with a safety standard. Replace broken bulbs only with similar bulbs. Always switch off the lights at night and when leaving the area unattended.
5. It is recommended that the tree should not be kept indoors for more than two weeks. Never burn a tree in a wood stove or fireplace.
6. Artificial trees should be flame retardant, check the label.
7. Place candles in a secure holder. Never leave lighted candles unattended and never place them close to combustible decorations or to curtains.
8. Put tea candles and night lights on a suitable heat resistant container. Never put them directly on a combustible surface e.g. television or table.
9. Never hang Christmas cards or decorations directly over a fireplace. Do not throw wrapping paper onto the fire. Use a spark guard at all times.
10. Do not overload sockets. Keep cables tidy and avoid a trip hazard.
11. Only use certified outdoor lights outside. Use proper watertight connectors on outdoor lights. Secure outdoor lights against wind damage and locate light strings and power cables where pets cannot chew or become entangled in them.
12. And remember - Last thing at night
  - Unplug lights and other electrical equipment
  - Put a spark guard in front of the fire
  - Check for any smoldering cigarette ends in furniture.
  - Check the kitchen and switch off all appliances.
  - Close all room doors.



**Check your smoke alarms NOW**

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