



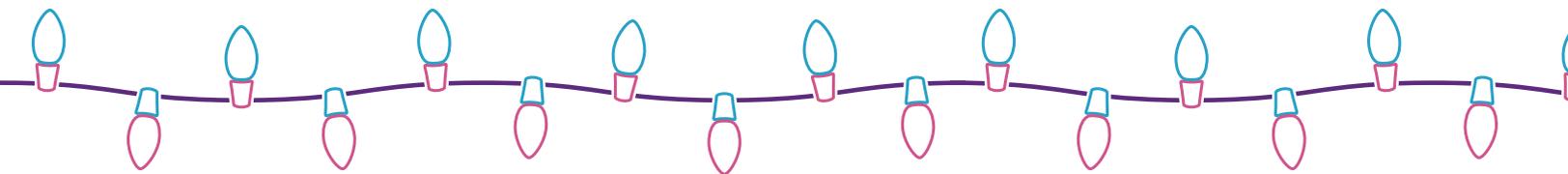
## Top Tips for Safe Holiday Decorating

'Tis the season to be festive! While there's no better way to celebrate this joyous time of the year than by decorating your home with lights, garlands and more, it's important to know about the potential safety hazards that they can bring when not set up correctly. Here are some tips on how to ensure you have a safe and happy holiday at home. Remember, if you have any questions, don't hesitate to call your broker and discuss.



### Indoors

- Inspect each electrical decoration for cracked sockets, frayed wires, or any faults that can cause a fire
- Turn off electrical decorations before going to bed
- Before using your chimney or fireplace, make sure it's been inspected and cleaned
- Never throw wrapping papers into the fireplace as they have potential to create flash fires
- Keep a fire extinguisher on hand and know its location within the home
- If decorating an artificial tree, check that it's labelled "fire retardant"
- Live trees should be kept in water and the needles should be green
- Trees should be placed away from high-traffic areas, doorways, heating vents, radiators, stoves and fireplaces
- Never place candles in a spot where they can be knocked over and never leave them unattended. Candles should also be lit away from any combustible materials and should be kept on heat-resistant surfaces
- Keep small, fragile ornaments out of reach for children
- Avoid plugging too many decorations into one outlet as it could start a fire
- Ensure that lights being used inside the home are labelled indoor-only and do not exceed the recommended wattage
- If you have any pets, keep holiday plants such as poinsettias, holly or mistletoe away from them as they can be toxic



### Outdoors

- Never staple or nail through any electrical wires or extension cords as it could cause a shock or fire
- Always follow packaging instructions on electrical decorations
- Use a wooden ladder when hanging lights to reduce the risk of an electric shock
- Plug all lights and decorations into portable ground fault circuit interrupters (GFCIs)
- Waterproof your electrical connections to avoid causing a shock or short circuit
- Plan your decorations according to the number of outlets available. Not doing so will overload them
- Keep decorations at least 10 feet away from power lines and ensure all decorations are well-ventilated
- Check labels on your lights to make sure they're suitable for outdoor use