



Make a Safety Checklist This Christmas, and Check It Twice

Christmas is approaching and as revellers set about their merrymaking by turning their homes and gardens into beacons of Christmas cheer, they are being asked to remember electrical safety.

Too often decorative lighting isn't installed correctly, or no electrical safety measures have been considered.

Master Electricians CEO Malcolm Richards said everyone needed to be aware of the dangers this could cause, and offered some tips to stay safe this festive season.

"Sometimes in the excitement around this time of year, common sense electrical safety measures are forgotten resulting in the dangerous installation of decorative lighting," he says.

"The most important thing to remember is to follow the instructions and recommendations of manufacturers."

There are many products and systems in place that make it very simple to ensure your home is always electrically safe.

Safety switches

A safety switch is the best way to secure your home and family's electrical safety.

In most electrical accidents a safety switch will sense danger instantly, cutting off the power in a fraction of a second.

Australian Standards

When you're purchasing decorative lights always look for an Australian Approval number such as Q12345, V01294, or N12345.

Many decorative lights are manufactured outside of Australia where safety standards are lower but the approval number indicates the product is safe to use here.

"Remember, a safety switch and approval number isn't an alternative to proper electrical maintenance or safe practices," Malcolm said.

"Your home can be covered in decorative lights inside and out and still be electrically sound; you just need to be vigilant and keep electrical safety top-of-mind."

Malcolm says following these tips would ensure that your Christmas won't be spoilt by an electrical incident:

- When installing lights outdoors, only use lights designed for external use. Generally these types will have a transformer,
- Ensure your outdoor connections are weatherproofed,
- Check for an Australian Approval number when purchasing lights,



- Do not piggyback double adapters or power boards,
- Always keep clear of powerlines, swimming pools, driveways, and walkways,
- Secure outdoor lights to fixtures and keep out of children's reach,
- Use extra low voltage lights - look for lights with a transformer, and,
- Always turn off outdoor lights during rain or storms.

If you have any questions or concerns, always contact a Master Electrician or a member of the Electrical and Communications Association (ECA). More information can be found at www.masterelectricians.com.au.