

Christmas lights safety

If you have old lights, seriously consider buying new ones which will meet much higher safety standards.

Buying

- Look for safety marks e.g. BS Kitemark
- Buy from a reputable store
- Avoid buying second-hand unless you have them professionally checked first
- New lights are transformed down to 24 volt for added safety, or they may be double insulated.

Checking

- **Never** insert or remove bulbs when switched on
- Inspect cables and bulbs for damage
- Do not use lights which are damaged – dispose of them safely.

Using

- Read and follow the manufacturer's instructions
- Use an RCD (residual current device) for added protection against shock
- Do not use the lights outdoors unless specifically made for such use
- Don't run the cable under carpets or where it can be damaged
- Keep lights clear of decorations and other flammable materials
- Avoid cables becoming a tripping hazard
- Use a stable support when hanging the lights
- Don't leave the lights on when the room is empty. Remember to switch them off when you go to bed and when you go out of the house
- Don't allow children to play with the lights.

Storing

- Take care when dismantling and packing the lights not to damage them
- Keep them safely stored away out of reach of children
- Avoid damp or excessively hot conditions.

For further assistance, please submit an enquiry using the [contact form](#), by telephone on +44 (0)121 248 2000 or by email on help@rospa.com

