



Requirements in using Holiday Decorations and Lights

Holiday Decorations: 2003 Minnesota State Fire Code, Section 804

Code requirements for Christmas trees: The use, display or storage of natural or resin-bearing Christmas trees or decorations is prohibited.

Exceptions:

The use and display of natural or resin-bearing Christmas trees or decorations inside individual dwelling units of Group R-2 and R-3 Occupancies is permitted. (R-2 and R-3 occupancies are apartment and condo type buildings.)

The use or display of flame-retardant artificial trees with listed electric light decorations is allowed in all occupancies.

Christmas trees shall not block access to required exits or obstruct, impair or block access to any fire-protection device, appliance, or equipment.

Code requirements for **Open Flames:** Candles and open flames shall not be used on or near decorative vegetation.

Code requirement for **Electrical fixtures and wiring:** The use of unlisted electrical wiring and lighting on decorative vegetation shall be prohibited.

Code requirement for **Artificial Vegetation:** Artificial decorative vegetation shall be flame resistant or flame retardant. Such flame resistance or flame retardance shall be documented and certified by the manufacturer in an approved manner.

Lights: Lights may be allowed on balconies **only** if the lights are listed (example U.L.) for outdoor use and **no** extension cords are used. Lights must plug directly into an outlet.

Decorative decorations: Flammable or combustible ornaments/decorations are **not permitted** on the hall side of apartment doors unless the decorations have been treated with a flame retardant material and submitted to the West Metro Fire Inspection Office for approval. The permissible amount of flame-resistant decorative materials shall not exceed 10 percent of the aggregate area of walls and ceilings. (We at West Metro Fire-Rescue District do use common sense when looking at decorations on doors and walls.)

Extension Cords: Extension cords are for temporary use only. They are prohibited from running through doorways, windows, under rugs, or similar wall openings.