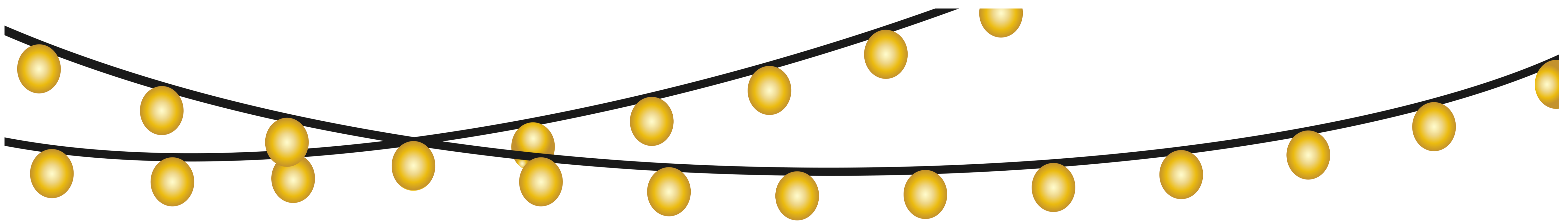


December

From your local
REAL ESTATE EXPERT



Shining Brightly!

5 Tips for Christmas Light Safety This Holiday Season

There is nothing quite like enjoying the Holiday Season by nuzzling into a thick blanket with a mug of cocoa, humming along to Christmas music, and enjoying the lights of the tree and the warmth of the fire. I bet this cozy Yuletide image doesn't include thinking about safety tips, but the lack of it can be troublesome! Here are 5 quick tips for Christmas light safety:

1. When purchasing string lights, bulbs, timers, cords, or anything else with electrical wiring, check for the certification mark to ensure they meet electric safety standards (CSA International, UL, or ELT).
2. Carefully inspect holiday light strings. Check for frayed cords, loose connections, broken bulbs, or broken sockets.
3. Always turn off holiday lights when leaving the house or going to bed. Never leave them on unattended.
4. When hanging outdoor lights, keep electrical connectors off the ground, and clear of metal gutters and downspouts. When hanging lights, use insulated tape and plastic clips to hang them rather than metal nails.
5. Choose the correct length of ladder when putting up Christmas lights and inspect for broken rungs and hinges before climbing.

Ron Spencer Real Estate
2895 Harding Hwy., Lima, OH 45804/www.rsre.com



7 Budget-Friendly Tips to Save Money This Christmas



Candy Cane Cocoa

INGREDIENTS

- 4 cups milk
- 3 (1 ounce) squares semisweet chocolate, chopped
- 4 peppermint candy canes, crushed
- 1 cup whipped cream
- 4 small peppermint candy canes

INSTRUCTIONS

- In a saucepan, heat up the milk until it's hot, but not quite boiling. Whisk in the chocolate, as well as the crushed peppermint candy canes until mixture is and smooth. Pour the hot cocoa into four mugs, and add some whipped cream on top for garnish. Serve with a candy cane stirring stick for each.

It's a little too easy to spend money during the holidays, and the bills can add up fast! Here are some ways you can trim the spending without trimming the fun!

- Cutting out a couple of dishes from the usual holiday feast can save both time and money. Trust me, there will still be plenty of food!
- Use gift bags instead of wrapping paper. They can be recycled year after year, and let's face it, a blessing for those who lack the skills to wrap gifts!
- Send your Christmas packages through the mail early and avoid priority couriers, which are as pricey as they are fast. You can save money in shipping, and you know your gift will arrive in time.
- You can wait to buy your Christmas tree after Dec 15th when the price lowers.
- Send postcards instead of Christmas cards. They are less expensive to buy, and less expensive to mail.
- Wrap pictures on the wall to look like gifts for a budget friendly decoration to add festive cheer to each room.
- For fresh greenery for decoration (and the delicious scent), go to places that sell Christmas trees and ask for the extra cuttings and branches that have fallen off.



Ron Spencer Real Estate
2895 Harding Hwy., Lima, OH 45804
419-228-8899/ www.rsre.com