

# 10 tips for a fireproof Christmas tree

**1** The tree must not be placed next to a doorway, exit or emergency exit or in front of a box containing a fire extinguisher. Refrain from placing it in front of meter boxes, fire alarms or control panels.

**2** Christmas trees should not be placed close to sources of heat such as candles, lights, heaters or ashtrays.

**3** Flame-resistant tinsel is the best type of decoration.

**4** Do not use snow spray and avoid using dry fir-tree branches as decorations.

**5** Make sure the tree is not able to fall over. For example, do not place the tree too close to curtains.

**6** The safest type is an artificial tree made from flame-resistant plastic (certified). For those who simply have to have a real tree, opt for a "live" tree with a root ball and plant it in a pot with damp sand. Water it every couple of days and spray the branches every day with a spray bottle.

**7** The lights for the tree should consist of small electric lights bearing a CE symbol (very low safety voltage and splash-proof), not candles.

**8** Check the wiring on the lights, and make sure nobody will trip over the wiring or extension lead.

**9** When you leave the room empty unplug the lights from the socket.

**10** In the event of a fire:

- ☑ Try to remain calm.
- ☑ Call the fire service:
- ☑ Get everyone to a safe place.
- ☑ Close the windows and doors.
- ☑ Pull the plug out of the socket.
- ☑ Only then use a fire extinguisher, if practicable.