

SAFETY MATTERS: Christmas edition



Christmas is coming and many families across Northamptonshire already have preparations under way. The lead up to the big day can be a busy time, packed with distractions, so it is often too easy to forget safety. We are publishing this seasonal safety newsletter to ask people to spare a thought for fire safety this Christmas.

Fairy lights not fairy frights

By now, many of us have transformed our homes into tinsel wonderlands packed with sparkling lights and garlands of festive foliage. But are your decorations safe?

If you are using fairy lights, make sure they are not old and worn. They need to be in good repair. They should also conform to the British Standard BS EN 60598.

Going out or off up to bed? Make sure your fairy lights are switched off and unplugged.

Remember that Christmas decorations can set alight easily, so please don't attach them to lights or heaters.



KEEPING CHRISTMAS SAFE



CRACKERS NOT CALAMITIES

Competition Time!

This year, Royal & Derngate has given its support to Northamptonshire Fire and Rescue Service's 'Crackers, not calamities' fire safety campaign by donating first prize panto tickets for our competition which asks people to share their 'worst cooking calamity' stories.

Cooking is a major cause of house fire and, in the last three years, Northamptonshire firefighters have attended more than 400 fires relating to cooking itself, or caused by cooking equipment.

Christmas is a fun-filled time for many people but it also lends itself to plenty of opportunities for accidental cooking fires.

We are asking people to email in their 'worst cooking calamity' stories. These should be between 250 and 500 words, explaining what happened and what you learned from the experience. One winner will be selected at random.

Please remember to include your name, address and the best contact phone number in your email.

The winner will be given a set of four panto tickets to this year's production of Cinderella at Royal & Derngate in Northampton.

The tickets will be for the 5pm show on December 27.

We may approach entrants after the competition, regardless of whether or not they win, if we feel their story has an important message about fire safety we would like to share. Stories will not be shared or published without the entrant's permission.

Email entries can be sent to:

anna.rittler@northants.pnn.police.uk

The deadline for entries is 6pm on Sunday, December 15.



Please note the competition is not open to employees of Northamptonshire Fire and Rescue Service, Northamptonshire Police, the Office of the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner, or their families.

'Tis the season for shiny new gadgets



New phones, computers, pads, hair straighteners, karaoke machines, TVs, walking, talking toys to be charged...the list goes on.

Many people's list of gifts can rely quite heavily on electrical supply. Unfortunately, electrical fires are common and one cause can be overloaded electrical sockets.

Remember:



Do not overload multi-plug adaptors. Use one plug to one socket.



Electrical goods use different amounts of power/amps so make sure you are not running too many amps through your adaptor or extension lead.



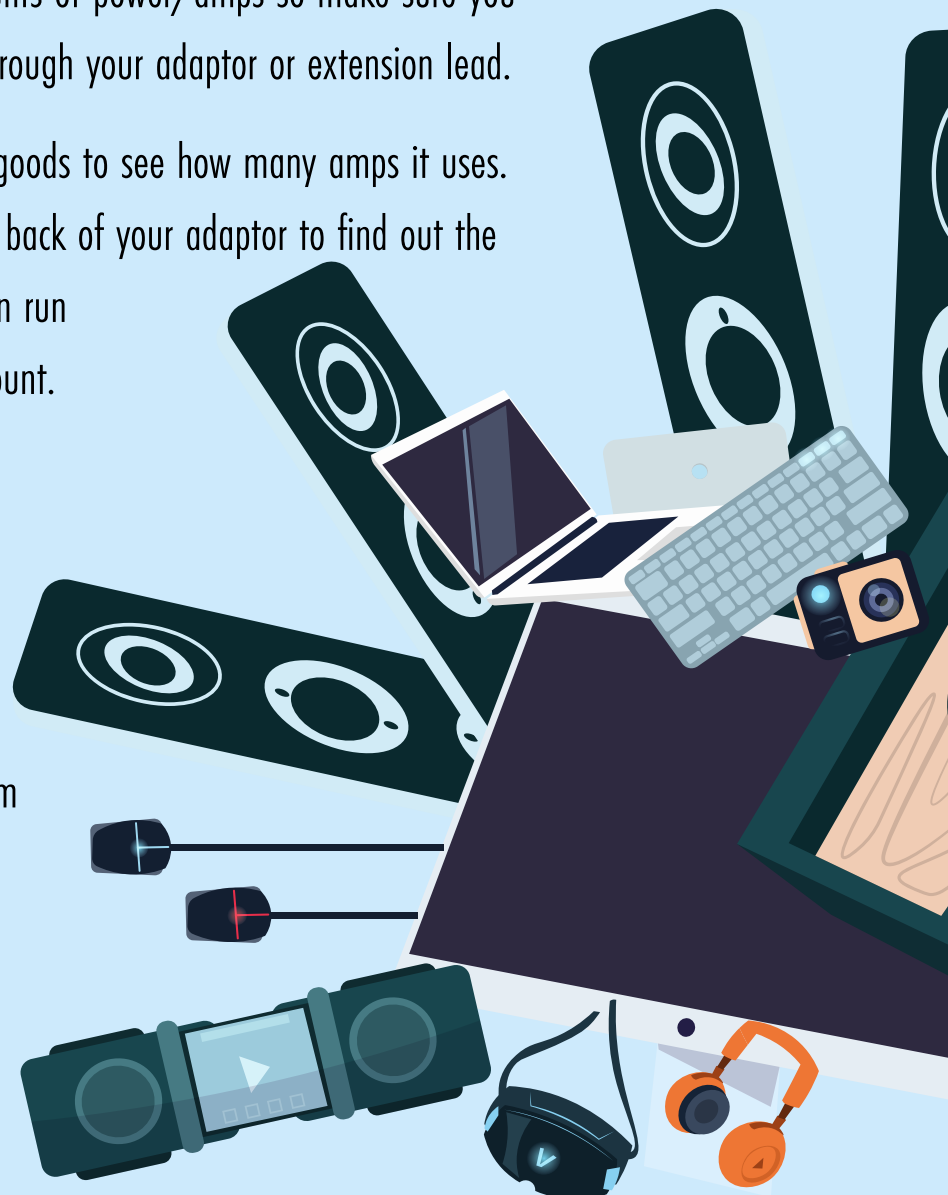
Look at the plug for each of your goods to see how many amps it uses. Then check the info written on the back of your adaptor to find out the maximum number of amps you can run through it. NEVER exceed that amount.



Never 'daisy chain' - that is link one extension lead to another as this can cause fire.



Remember to unplug electrical goods when you are not using them or when you go to bed.



Top 5 tips to staying safe this Christmas



Don't cook if you have been drinking, leave the festive tipples until after the cooking has been done.



Makes sure you always keep candles, lighters and matches out of the reach of children.



Christmas trees and decorations can catch light easily so keep candles well away from them.



If having visitors over this Christmas, make sure they and your family know what the escape plan is in case of fire. In the event of a fire, you should get out, stay out and call 999.

Do something good this Christmas. Test the smoke alarms of someone you know who may need help, such as an older relative or neighbour, to ensure their safety.

