

Smart Ways to Avoid Home Disasters This Holiday Season

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In the hustle and bustle of the holidays, little acts of carelessness often snowball into bigger blunders that can sour the sweetness of the season. And with extended family and friends, opportunities abound for mishaps caused by mischief-makers. Looking for ways to avoid holiday disasters? We've asked experts for their top holiday hacks for a smoother celebration this season.

Parched Pine

A dried-out tree not only litters your floor with needles but also presents a serious fire hazard. Make sure your stand fits the size of your tree to ensure an adequate reservoir of water, and refill regularly. Additionally, you can feed your tree with plant food or even aspirin. Elliot Storey of Storey's Christmas Trees in Westbrook, Maine, mixes one or two crushed aspirins in the tree's water to lower the pH level of the water and clear the tree's vascular system. "You can test the tree's dryness by giving the branch a gentle tug and see if any needles break," says Tori Toth, lifestyle expert and founder of Stylish Stagers, Inc.