Yes, you can use outdoor Christmas lights inside – and other answers to your Christmas light questions!

We have a few questions about Christmas lights – and thought you might, too. So, here's what we found out …

Can I use outdoor lights on an indoor Christmas tree?

Yes. Lights labeled for outside use can be used indoors.

Can I use indoor lights outside?

No. While it's generally safe to use exterior lights inside, the reverse isn't true. Inside lights aren't sealed against moisture and will stop working during the first heavy rain.

In a strand of lights, is it safe to leave a light bulb socket empty?

It's probably okay. However, lint, dust or a flying bug caught in the empty socket could cause a spark. To be on the safe side, find a new bulb for that socket or leave a burned-out bulb in the socket.

What are the best Christmas lights to buy?

LED lights for three main reasons: LED lights create little or no heat; they are cool to the touch. You can safely connect eight to 10 LED light strands together end-to-end while using only one plug outlet. LED Christmas lights are rated to last thousands of hours. If you take care of them, these light strands can be used year after year without the need to change any bulbs.

Can I leave the Christmas tree lights on while I am out of the house?

You shouldn't do that. Depending on your lights, they can get hot and possibly cause a fire. Besides, think of all that wasted electricity.

Are Christmas lights worth the hassle?

Certainly. They are beautiful. Here are more tips so you can enjoy your lights safely …

• Indoors or outside, use only lights that have been tested for safety. They will have a label from an independent testing laboratory.

• Check each set of lights, new or old, for broken or cracked sockets, frayed or bare wires, or loose connections. Discard damaged sets or repair them before using.

• Fasten outdoor lights securely to trees, the house, walls or other firm support to protect from wind damage.

• Use no more than three standard-size sets of lights per single extension cord.

• Turn off all lights on trees and other decorations when you go to bed or leave the house.

• Never use electric lights on a metallic tree.