

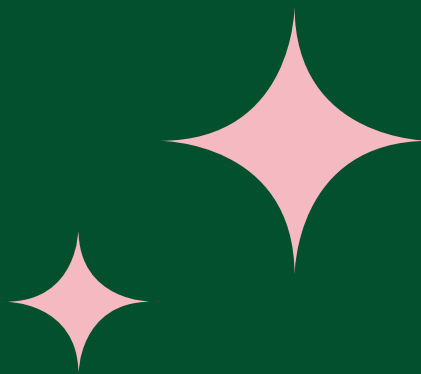
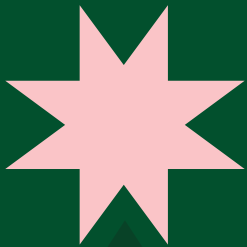


Christmas Lights COMPETITION

presented by

Narellanpools^o
IPSWICH

TIPS AND TRICKS



ENERGEX SAFETY TIPS



Do make electrical safety your first priority

Do look up and live

Do check old lights for faults or frayed cords

Do buy Australian-compliant lights and always follow the manufacturer's instructions

Do use low voltage lights and quality power board for multiple plugs

Do keep lights, powerpoints and adaptors out of reach of children

Do switch off lights before going to bed or leaving the house



Don't string lights or leads on or near overhead powerlines, including the connection to your house

Don't overcrowd powerpoints or use double-adaptors

Don't alter or modify light kits

Don't use indoor lights outdoors

Don't use light sets which have missing globes

Don't string lights around wet areas such as swimming pools

Don't put a ladder on an unstable surface

BE A GOOD ELF (NEIGHBOUR)

The Christmas Lights Competition is designed to encourage community participation and the spirit of giving and sharing. To ensure you and your neighbours enjoy the festive season, consider these simple tips when planning your lights display.

- Direct your lights so they don't shine into your neighbours' windows.
- Operate your lights for set times avoiding late nights and early mornings.
- Carefully consider the placement and use of flashing, high-speed lights within your display.
- Consider the impact your display will have on the safety of vehicular and pedestrian traffic and plan to ensure that any risks are minimised, including obtaining any relevant permits.
- Ensure decorations involving sound effects or amplified music comply with local laws.
- Notify your neighbours ahead of competition judging and display periods with a polite letter or a quick conversation.
- Ensure displays are contained within the property boundary, entrants are not to use the footpath or electricity poles.
- Be open to feedback, and compromise with your neighbours.

DESIGN TIPS AND TRICKS



- **Make a plan:**

Before you begin decorating your home exterior, begin by working out a plan as to the type of look you would like to achieve. Would you like to create a classic/traditional look through decorating with warm white lighting? A mix of fun multi-colours? What type of Christmas lights would you like to hang? These could be twinkle, static, icicles, festoon, etc. Also consider working with uplighting through flood and spotlights. These types of lights can come in a range of white or colour changing options. Featured uplighting assists in lighting tall and hard to access trees, shrubs and hard exteriors. Source solar/led lighting where possible. No matter how simple or over the top you would like to style your exterior – it always helps to begin with a plan.

- **Look for focal points, be creative and have fun:**

Once you have a plan of the type of look you would like to achieve, look for areas around the exterior that will best work as focal points for feature lighting. Some examples: Trees lining the driveway would look great with uplights and/or festoon lights suspended loosely between branches, whereas a cone shaped tree or pine tree would work well to feature as a natural Christmas tree lit with fairy lighting. Look for any structural items around the front of your home that could be utilised to feature lighting – arches, columns, balustrades and fence lines. Look for areas to add extra sparkle – find inspiration in unexpected places and create a bit of fun by lighting the garden bench seat, letterbox, privacy screens, flower pots or an old bicycle. Look at ways of recycling/reimagining old props, garden furniture and ornaments.

- **Apartment living and small spaces:**

Enjoy the festive spirit by lighting balcony balustrades, plants and hanging pot plants. Today's latest technology provides alternatives in lighting areas where access to power is difficult. This can be achieved through feature lighting powered by solar or battery.

- **Measure and assess power:**

Before you begin the install, measure and check the areas you wish to light and evaluate your power situation. You will then be able to ensure you purchase and install with the correct length of strand lighting and power leads. Ensure all electricals are specified for outdoor use.

- **Check and know how to attach the lights:**

Before you decorate your home, exterior or trim your Christmas tree, check that all of your lights are working and replace any faulty strands or bulbs. Visit your local hardware and look for any clips, cable ties, electrical tape and attachment items to assist with safely securing your lighting.

- **Start out small and simple:**

If this is your first attempt at Christmas lighting start small, lighting two to three items to serve as focal points. Plan ahead and add new displays each year.

- **Find yourself an elf to help:**

Recruit a 'Santa's little helper' to assist and ensure safety whilst hanging Christmas lights. Your helper can be your spotter from the ground when you are working on the ladder.

DESIGN TIPS AND TRICKS



■ **Install tips:**

When you are ready to add Christmas lights to the exterior of your house, start with the highest point and work your way from side-to-side and then down. When lighting trees with fairy lighting start at the base and wrap the lights around in a spiral approximately 150mm to 200mm apart. If you would like to highlight and illuminate foliage, start at the top and zigzag lights through the centre of the tree, getting wider with the trees shape. When lighting Christmas trees, topiaries, small shrubs and ground cover, work in a zigzag pattern as opposed to creating harsh straight lines. Working with net lighting can also assist with installation time and even coverage. Try to hide wires and leads by tucking them into foliage. Create depth and height by using uplighting on featured elements and trees. Create a dynamic display by selecting specific areas to feature moving and twinkling lights. Be select and try not to overpower with too many crazy moving lights. Always install your lights with the set plugged in and switched on as this allows you to preview your work as you go, and ensure that you have not completed a full install of lights only to realise they are not working.

■ **Lighting colour:**

Your choice of lighting colour – warm white, cool white or multi-coloured – will help you achieve your desired theme. Warm white lights work well in traditional, rustic, romantic or tailored settings. Cool white lighting works well in contemporary settings. Multi-coloured lighting can add all the shimmer and fun that you expect to find in a magical setting. However, it is also important to show some restraint through colour blocking certain featured elements of your display. For example, you may choose to highlight the gateway entrance and exterior columns of your home in a single colour, such as warm white or magenta whilst displaying multi-coloured fairy lights throughout low shrubs and topiaries.

■ **Stand back and review your work:**

Lastly, once you complete each area, stand back and view the lit item, look for any dark areas or wayward light strands that need attention. Ensure that you are creating continuity throughout the overall exterior landscape.

■ **Capturing your display:**

Whether you are entering the City of Ipswich Christmas Lights Competition or simply putting up lights for your own enjoyment, it's a good idea to capture photos of your display to refer to the following year. To ensure your snaps are of the highest quality, use the below tips:

1. Start photographing your lights around dusk – this is the best time of day to get the perfect shot of your lights display.
2. Act fast – light changes so quickly between sunset and nightfall, each minute will bring slightly different lighting conditions.
3. Forget the flash.
4. Fill your frame – fill it with everything you are trying to capture.
5. If using an iPhone try using burst mode, this will take a number of shots each time and you can go back later and select the best ones.

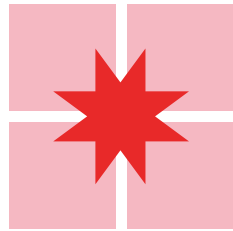
Thank you

from

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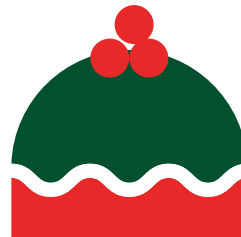
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