

# TIPS TO HELP STAY SAFE THIS HOLIDAY SEASON

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## Travelling to your cottage this holiday season?

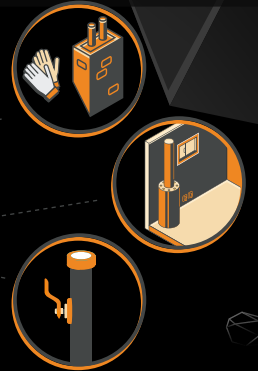
- ✓ Ensure your primary residence has that “lived-in” look to deter would-be burglars: maintain lighting inside and outside your home, keep steps and porches shoveled, don’t allow mail to build-up.
- ✓ Display your alarm system signage prominently, and consider home check-ins by a licensed professional.



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## Staying put?

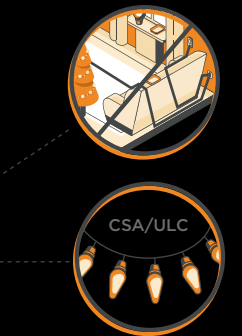
- ✓ Get your home winter-ready by having your chimneys inspected & cleaned, furnaces serviced, turning off water supply to exterior hose bibs and detaching garden hoses, and insulating pipes that pass through exterior walls or unheated garages & attics.
- ✓ Consider installing an automatic water shut-off valve that will act quickly in the event of a burst pipe



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## Cooking up a feast?

- ✓ Ask your alarm advisor about installing a centrally monitored heat detector in your kitchen.
- ✓ Roll up your sleeves or wear a short-sleeved shirt when cooking over the stove.
- ✓ To keep your wine pairings perfect, consider installing high and low temperature monitors in your wine cellar



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## Decorating with glee?

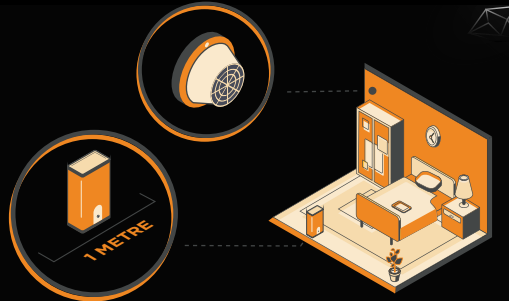
- ✓ Avoid running extension cords under carpets or furniture, avoid use of real candles on trees, and ensure lights are certified by Canadian agencies such as CSA or ULC.



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## Using your Guest Space?

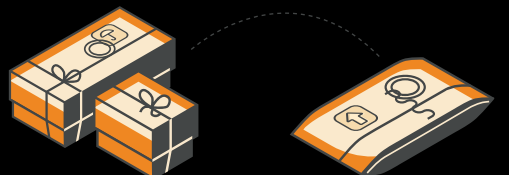
- ✓ Ensure all sleeping quarters are equipped with smoke detectors and carbon monoxide detectors.
- ✓ Space heaters should have a minimum 1 metre clearance around the unit and should be turned off and unplugged when unattended



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## Unwrapping Gifts?

- ✓ Never burn wrapping paper in your fireplace due to rapid burning & excessive heat.
- ✓ To deter would-be criminals who may be scouting the area, ensure boxes & bags are obscured under other garbage or recyclables, cut up, or disposed of at a local drop-off location.



Visit [northbridgeinsurance.ca](https://northbridgeinsurance.ca) for more tips and resources to help protect your home and business.