

# Happy Holidays

## A few simple tips for your home to help you have a happy Christmas

### 1 Christmas tree lights

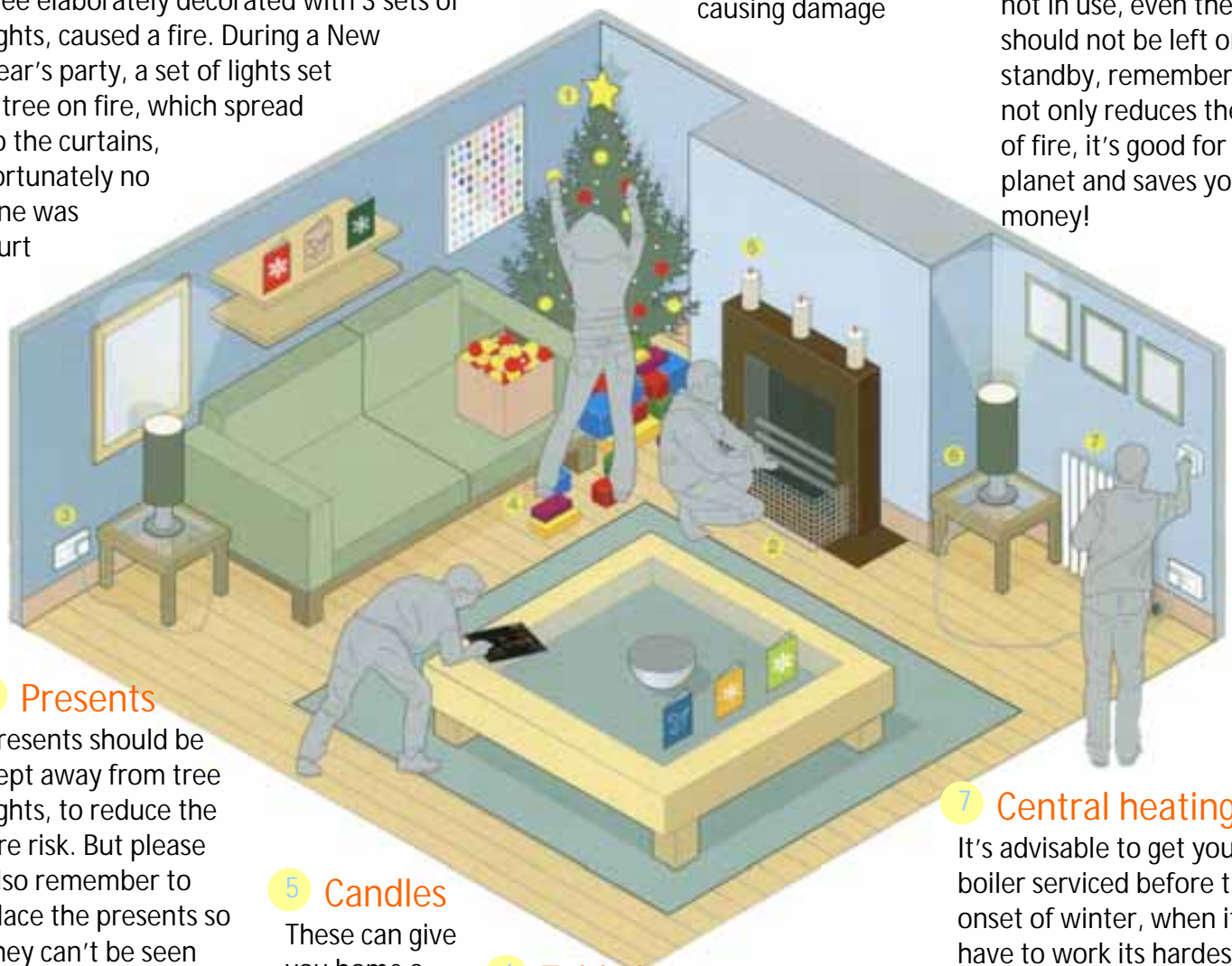
It's well worth investing in a new set of lights, as an old set can develop faults. A Grade 1 listed Georgian house suffered considerable damage, when a family's tree elaborately decorated with 3 sets of lights, caused a fire. During a New Year's party, a set of lights set a tree on fire, which spread to the curtains, fortunately no one was hurt

### 2 Open fire

If you are lighting the fire for the first time this winter, please make sure that the chimney has been swept to remove swept and any debris such as old bird nests. Don't forget the fireguard, to stop sparks and even tumbling fuel causing damage

### 3 Electrical sockets

Take care not to overload sockets with, televisions, games consoles, and Christmas lights. They will not be designed to take such loads – even using extension blocks and surge protectors. Please also remember to turn the equipment off when not in use, even the TV should not be left on standby, remember it not only reduces the risk of fire, it's good for the planet and saves you money!



### 4 Presents

Presents should be kept away from tree lights, to reduce the fire risk. But please also remember to place the presents so they can't be seen from the windows. Sadly theft increases during this period and heartless thieves will be happy to grab the chance to steal hundreds of pounds of brand new gadgets clothes toys and the like.

### 5 Candles

These can give you home a warm and cosy atmosphere, but please make sure you have put them all out before you go to bed.

### 6 Table lamps

No lights on in the house, can signal to burglars that no one is home. Set one or two table lamps ideally with low energy light bulbs, on a timer switch, so they give the impression that someone is home. Remember to check your security lights are working too!

### 7 Central heating

It's advisable to get your boiler serviced before the onset of winter, when it will have to work its hardest providing heat for radiators and running hot water baths. Also if you are going to leave your home unoccupied over the festive season, remember to set your heating to run for two or three hours a day, so there are no frozen or burst pipes to deal with when you return