



Have a pile of burned-out holiday lights? Replacing your old lights with new, more energy-efficient options? The following guide will help you recycle old lights, pick new ones, and offer important tips for a safe and bright holiday season!

## Repair before Recycle!

Why replace the whole string for a few broken bulbs? Before you drop off your holiday light string, see if there are replacement bulbs available first to avoid unnecessary waste.



## And if You Do Need to Recycle...

Christmas light strings are included in BC's [LightRecycle](#) program and can be dropped off for free at participating light fixture recycling depots. The maximum return limit for any single visit is 5 fixtures, though some sites may accept more - call ahead to ensure the depot can accept larger volumes.

Find your closest depot [HERE](#). Options for commercial generators are located [HERE](#). Please note that some decorative fixtures, such as light-up Christmas characters and artificial trees with embedded lights, *are not included*.

Some retailers such as [London Drugs](#) also provide their own in-store recycling programs for Christmas lights. Contact your local store for details.

## Buying New Lights?

Choose LED lights. They last 7 times longer and use 90% less energy than standard incandescent strings. They are also available for both indoor and outdoor use with many colours to choose from. Using a timer for your Christmas tree lights can help you reduce your energy consumption by 30-50%. Turn your outdoor lights on in the evening and leave them on for 4-6 hours to get the most savings.



From [christmasstockimages.com](http://christmasstockimages.com)

## Lighting Safety Tips

- Check for cracked or frayed wires. If you find defects, replace the entire string.
- Be careful not to staple or nail through light strings or extension cords.
- Don't close doors and windows on lights strings or extension cords.
- Don't mount Christmas lights near sources of heat.
- Keep your natural tree well-hydrated, remembering to unplug the lights before watering.
- Don't cover Christmas lights with cloth, paper or materials that are not part of the lights.
- Only connect the recommended amount of lights to one continuous string.

