



## Tip of the Week

### 2009 Trends for outdoor holiday decor



1873 S. Bellaire St.  
Suite 920  
Denver, CO 80222-4356  
tele. 303 757-5611  
fax 303 757-5636  
[www.alcc.com](http://www.alcc.com)

*Make it your own* is a big holiday style trend for '09. As these photos suggest, holiday lighting can apply to all kinds of things and very small spaces. An old bike, a pair of skis or the wheelbarrow that's parked for the winter can all dress up your yard in lights for the holidays. And if you don't have a yard per se, you can still make a personal holiday statement on your balcony or patio. Check out what you've got on hand and get going on the lights.

#### Speaking of lights . . .

- Here's an option to save your personal energy: If you put up white lights on trees or outdoor structures like pergolas, you could leave them up all year long. On the 4th of July or any time you want a festive mood, the only effort it takes is to plug them in.
- More energy savings: for new light purchases, convert to LEDs. They require far less energy and cost much less to operate than incandescent bulbs. Plus they last 60,000 to 100,000 hours versus incandescent at 1,500 to 10,000 hours. The initial investment is more, but the cost is recovered in reduced electricity bills and extended life.

#### Always put safety first

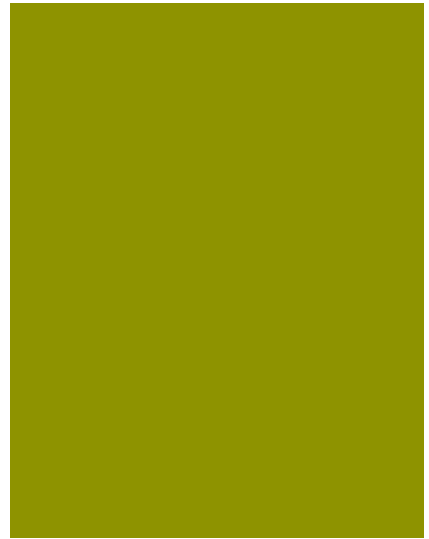
- If you are decorating anything that could be combustible, switch to LED lights. Because they are always cool to the

touch, they won't set dry branches or other materials on fire.

- Never coil the extension cords. They can burn and if they are placed in mulch, coiled cords can easily start a fire.
- Beware of tall ladders and put your personal safety ahead of holiday bling. If your job needs a tall ladder, consider calling a pro with the equipment to do the work up high.

For help with your holiday lighting and outdoor decorating needs, go to [www.alcc.com](http://www.alcc.com) and click on Find a Pro.

*Photos courtesy Columbine Design, Inc. Technical information provided by ALCC members.*



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Associated Landscape Contractors of Colorado | 1873 S. Bellaire Street, #920 | Denver | CO | 80222