

ARTIFICIAL TREES AND WREATHS

“It’s The Most Wonderful Time Of The Year. With Kids Jingle Belling And Everyone Telling You Be Of Good Cheer, It’s The Most Wonderful Time Of The Year.” And It Could Be Toxic Too! Time to start decorating your house, your yard, your Christmas Tree.

If you’ve pulled your artificial Christmas tree and artificial wreath out to decorate, it is time to take a close look at both.

If the tree and wreath have “needles” that are dark green and shiny, your decorations will be hung safely for all members of the family to enjoy.

If the tree and wreath have “needles“ that are dull and have lost their luster, it may be time to send that tree or wreath to the landfill and replace them with a new tree or wreath.

The reason to toss your tree or wreath? If your tree or wreath is dull, it is because the white lead that was sprayed on all of the “needles” to make them look lustrous, has become brittle, cracked and has fallen to the floor or the ground. You will have no real worries if the tree and wreath is hung outside. The lead will be found in the soil in small amounts as the majority of it has blown away.

If you display your Christmas tree and wreaths in the house, you have to be a little concerned, as the led would have fallen to the floor. If you notice your pet(s) licking the floor where the tree stands, or has stood over time, there may be toxic lead present.

There are two methods to determine the presence of lead on the floor. Method one is to use a soft, clean cloth and wipe the floor. Fold the carpet inward and take it to a laboratory for analysis. Method two is quick, simple and cost free. Simply get on your hands and knees and lick the carpet. If the carpet has a “sweet” taste, it is contaminated with lead. This lead is toxic to small children and family pets. To “fix” this issue, replace your tree and clean the carpet with HEPA equipped vacuum cleaner.

Be safe, and make this a most wonder time of the year!

