

Festive footpaths

Council encourages residents to celebrate and enjoy the festive season. This factsheet provides information on how to safely put up festive street decorations.

Duty of care

Council has a responsibility under the *Disability Discrimination Act 1992* to maintain a safe path of travel for all. Residents putting up festive street decorations therefore also have a duty to ensure safety and pedestrian access is maintained at all times.

Safety considerations

Always be mindful of hazards and risks posed to yourself and others when carrying out installation of festive street decorations. There are a number of safety issues you should consider. These include:

- carrying out all work from the ground (i.e. not on a ladder)
- keeping pedestrians and yourself off the road
- keeping footpaths clear of tools and/or material
- looking up to keep equipment and decorations away from overhead power cables. (For more information on how to stay safe around electricity contact Energex on 13 12 53 or www.energex.com.au).

Installation checklist

The putting up of festive street decorations must be undertaken in accordance with this checklist to ensure safety and access for all and avoid damaging Council [street trees](#).

Please be aware that if your decorations do not comply with the checklist, are damaging a street tree, or otherwise pose a serious risk to person or property you will be asked to change or remove them, and fines may apply. If we cannot establish who owns the decorations, or cannot make contact with the owner, the decorations may be removed by Council.

Prescribed festive period

Mid-October to Mid-January each year. With specific dates for each year available on Council's [Verge gardens](#) web page.



Decorating Conditions Checklist

Decorations must:

only be displayed during the prescribed festive period.

☐

not obstruct or create a hazard on the footpath for pedestrians (including people using a wheelchair), cyclists or people alighting from a vehicle.

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not be placed on or obstruct any other infrastructure on the footpath such as power poles, manholes, underground services, bus shelters, bike racks etc.

☐

not contain offensive language or other material that may be deemed offensive.

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not harm wildlife or result in the pollution of the local environment.

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not obstruct the visibility of motorists using the road, entering or exiting a residential driveway.

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be adequately secured to property fences and any freestanding ornaments and decorations are of sufficient weight to prevent them from being carried by the wind.

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where involving festive lighting, be solar powered and installed in a manner that does not affect the health and wellbeing of residents in my neighbourhood.

☐

not obstruct the Australia Post delivery service, rubbish collectors and utility services.

☐

not damage [street trees](#).

☐

I understand

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utility providers may need to service or upgrade their infrastructure, and this may result in the removal of my decorations.

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placing decorations is at my own risk, and I have considered the impacts of the decorations on residents, domestic animals, wildlife and surroundings.

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