



COMMUNITY HOUSING CORPORATION

December 15, 2009

FESTIVE/OUTDOOR LIGHTING ON BALCONIES

Along with all the celebrations of this holiday season, we need to remind our residents of electrical safety with regards to balcony lighting.

For the safety of yourself and your neighbours, CHC can not allow outdoor lighting on balconies where an outdoor circuit does not exist. The **Ontario Electrical Safety Code** specifies it is a violation to run a flexible cord (extension cord) through holes in walls, ceilings or floors, or run through doorways, windows or similar openings.

See Regulation 4-010

What does this mean?

A resident cannot run an extension cord from inside their apartment to outside their apartment (to the balcony,) either through the window or sliding door. The Ontario Electrical Safety Code identifies this as a safety hazard.

Why?

There is risk of electrical shock or fire if the cord was pinched in the steel door frame of the door or the window. There is also significant risk to safety without the use of a weather guarded cord.

We work with The Electrical Safety Authority (ESA) to improve electrical safety in all CHC buildings. The ESA is responsible for public electrical safety in Ontario. The Ontario Electrical Safety Code is law in Ontario and defines the legal requirements for safe electrical installations and products/equipment. We develop our policies from the electrical Code and with the guidance of the ESA.

Can I decorate my balcony?

Yes, you can decorate balconies so long as it is not a nuisance to your neighbours. You are limited from

- Plugging in outdoor lights to an indoor receptacle – electrical safety risk.
- Hanging anything over the railing of the balcony – falling risk.

If lighting is important to you, consider the purchase of the new solar LED lights available at local retailers.

Should you have any questions please contact your District Manager or
Call Customer Service at 519-254-1681 extension 3030.

Wishing you a safe and happy holiday season.

CHC Property Management Department

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SOCIÉTÉ DE LOGEMENT DE LA COMMUNAUTÉ WINDSOR ESSEX

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