Light your home for Christmas

You can make your house glow with holiday cheer by using these so simple tricks with lighting fixtures. It's easy, just follow the instructions listed here.

EVER since the three wise men saw the star of Bethlehem, light has been the symbol of Christmas, but only since the advent of electricity has Christmas lighting become a nearly universal custom.

Today, companies like General Electric have factories which manufacture Christmas tree lights exclusively and turn out close to a million of them every working day of the year.

Whether you're an apartment dweller or own your own home, here are a few basic suggestions offered by G-E lighting experts which can mean an attractive yet economical decoration for your home:

Decide what exterior features you want to emphasize . . . the high pitch of roof or gables, shrubbery, front door, or view window.

Determine the quantity of wire, sockets and lamps needed. Weatherproof cord, sockets, fixtures and plugs should be used outdoors.

Check the condition of your string sets and devices, and replace worn, broken or frayed parts.

Among the easy-to-use aids for holiday lighting are strings, festoons, stars, projector flood lamps, molded plastic Santa faces and canes, electric candles, wreaths and signs.

How to combine these products into effective displays is a matter of individual taste. Here are some specific displays designed by lighting experts which will help you make your home say "Merry Christmas" indoors and outdoors with holiday lighting.

Plan your outdoor lighting early for best results. If this is your first attempt, start with a simple theme and plan to develop it in succeeding years.

How To Do It

Begin at your door where nothing is more effective than a handsome wreath of Christmas greens. Highlight it by placing a projector floodlight in a swivel-type holder and point it so that it shows up the deep green of the wreath and blankets the doorway in a soft white light. (see illustration)

If you are fortunate enough to have some shubbery or small trees, these lend themselves to the conventional treatment with outdoor strings.

Try using solid colors on some trees, or patterns of two colors. All blue lights, except for a few white accents, are particularly effective.

Frame Windows

Homes without benefit of shrubbery often present a problem when it comes to holiday lighting.

One solution suggested by G-E lighting specialists is to entwine colored outdoor strings of lights and evergreen festooning and, framing a window, fasten it to the house in the shape of a giant tree.

Homes with interesting architectural lines particularly lend themselves to artistic yet dignified decoration. One of the easiest methods and one which accents the lines of a home is to floodlight the whole house in a soft blue light.

Projector floodlights (150-watt) using blue glass covers can be concealed in low shrubbery on the front lawn.

Windows, especially picture windows, have the versatility of a stage and can reflect any mood or setting that you, the stage-manager, want. They can serve simply as a window to show off the festive interior of of your outdoor lighting scheme.

A "snowflake" window can be made by outlining top and sides of a rectangular-shaped window with colored outdoor Christmas lights covered with crinkled metal foil.

Then cut lacy white snowflake outlines from paper doilies or napkins and fasten to inside of the window. Seen from the outside, the living room Christmas tree is dramatically framed by king-size snowflakes.

Hallway Brighteners

If you have an unusually attractive window, just outline it with strings of lights to form a perfect frame for the family Christmas tree. Balance the setting with lighted shrubbery.

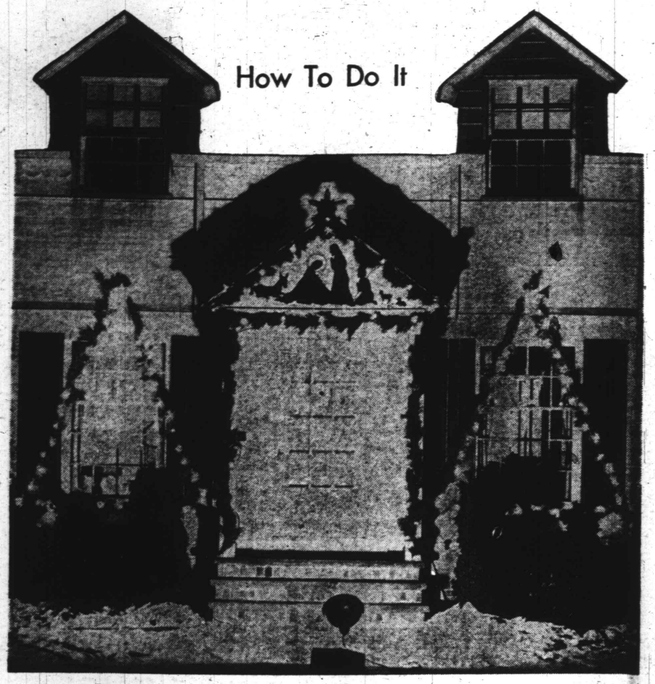
To greet guests as they step into your front hallway, a lighted bell suspended over a bouquet of Christmas greens on the hall table is an inexpensive holiday decoration. Use fireproof papier-mache, plastic, or foil bell, wire it with a regular household size socket on an extension cord.

Use a 25-watt bulb in red, green, yellow or blue for a glowing color effect, or a 60 or 10-watt silvered bowl bulb in a porcelain socket for a subtle indirect lighting effect.

Buy NAACP

Christmas Seals

Merry Christmas, check the condition of all your decorating lights. Look for fraying parts which might mean broken or exposed wire. Check for broken wire by twisting wire near socket or by wiggling the socket itself. If light flickers, discard complete string or device unless practical to rewire it yourself. As for decorative devices, be sure no foil is touching the socket.



This house was brightened for Christmas by arranging lighted roping in the form of twin Christmas trees. To focus attention on the silhouetted figures above the door, a 150-watt projector floodlight in an outdoor holder is placed at the bottom of the steps.

Modern, stylized trees which will add a festive touch to your mantel are easily made with these inexpensive ingredients: gift wrapping paper, strings of lights, doweling and wooden disks or blocks.

Lighted strings should be secured to the dowel with electrical tape after the dowel has been nailed to the base

Cover this basic "tree" with a cone of fireproof material that is transparent enough to allow the glow of colored light to shine through. Be sure to make the cones large enough so that the top bulb is at least one-quarter inch away from material. (See illustrations).

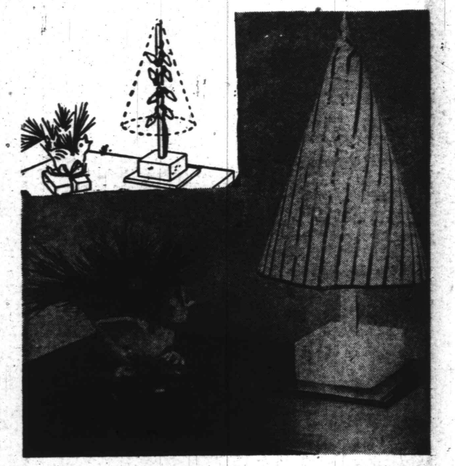
Tree Is Climax

The all-important Christmas tree itself should play a dual role of furnishing beauty both from within and outside of your home.

Place it prominently in front of a large window. If you are also planning outside decorations, plan to make the lighted tree the final touch to your over-all decorating plan.

And remember, for a safe and

Home-made Christmas lamps with colorful wrapping paper fashioned into decorative shades can be created easily and inexpensively.



Assemble this lamp in four easy steps. 1.) Attach dowel to wooden base with tack; 2.) press plastic foam piece in place . . . you can easily force the dowel through the foam; 3.) attach string lights to dowel with electrical tape; 4.) cover "tree" with cone made from colorful wrapping paper.

Greenwich Village Artist Paints For His Supper

Meet Charleston Wilson, He Finds Profit and Pleasure As He Works In New York's Picturesque Artists' Haven

Charleston Wilson, Greenwich Village artist, is shown at his easel in his 8th ave. studio. The Village begins at the foot of Manhattan and is an artists' paradise.

The Sidewalk Is His Studio

In New York's lower Manhattan, fanning out from historic Washington Square, Greenwich Villiage is found . . . a quaint section which has long attracted artists and writers.

The Village is a city within a city. For four decades it has stood for all the glamour and oddity connected with creative minds.

It reached its heyday during Prohibition, for its large row houses provided perfect blinds for speak-easies.

When the illicit night club popped up, Greenwich Village's reputation went down, so much so that the serious artists began to move out for quieter sections.

By World War II, the Village was a paradise in name only. It had become famous for its odd hangers-on rather than for its artistic output.

A good many artists still remain.

Typical of the Village's former Bohemian air is Charleston Wilson, an ambitious 33-year-old portrait painter, who has a studio at 46 W. 8th st. and who displays his work on a sidewalk not far away.

Mr. Wilson specializes in quick portraits done in charcoal or chalk.

He sets up his easel on the sidewalk near his studio and passers-by stop, get their likenessess rendered in a few minutes, pay him and go their ways.

Such a trade keeps Mr. Wilson comfortably situated.

He does his more serious painting in the quiet and sunny studio he makes his home.

Someday, he looks forward to great masterpieces and devotes most of his time to perfecting his technique. His sidewalk "quickie" portraiture is a step along the road.

How does he like the artists' life? Great, he says. "The Village is an artists' paradise."

A fast man with a brush or charcoal, Wilson attracts throngs of passersby when he does his sidewalk sketches. Here he does a likeness of Mrs. Rosman Pirwin of Croton, N.Y., while bystanders look on.

Charleston Wilson displays his art work on the sidewalk near his studio. New Yorkers and tourists alike shop in the Village for good bargains in art, created by such talented young artists as Mr. Wilson.

Here, the young artist admires some of his own handiwork. He has a deft touch and an assurance about his painting that has won him acclaim. A display of his work is at the Franklin Bank in Newark, N.J.