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## Amazyble christmas lights

The inner dumplings that we need to make a holiday light show go viral. Picture: Rob Lewine/Getty If you have deep pockets and time in your hands, you can turn the display of ho-hum Christmas lights into dazzling, with just 400,000 bulbs, 70 extra circuits and hundreds of hours of planning and hanging. For more than 30 years, brothers Tom and Jim Smith have dazzled their neighbours (and the nation on social media) at their annual Christmas lights show on 1900 Prior Road in Wilmington, Del. But brother-in-law's mother-in-law Ralph Thompson, 54, has the brain and muscle to make plans and puts on display, working weekends and evenings on Labor Day until Thanksgiving. Making A Christmas Lights Extravaganza Thompson spoke to HouseLogic about the secrets of mounting a holiday display, leading to news year after year. Houselogic: With so many lights and blowups and numbers, how do you know where to put what? Kitchen Make sure it seemed like a good idea at the time, not to cross the lips after the renovation. First Time Home Buyer There are a lot of steps to buying a house, and it takes time: It takes 50 days on average just close to home. Storage Ideas & Hacks Start Saving Those Egg Cartons! Ralph Thompson: You learn from experience. I like to mix bulbs together - the old is new; the LEDs are the bulbs. The house is decorated with large bulbs, and I use small bulbs like icicle. Best tip for beginners: If you need 150 meters of lights, buy 200. It's always good to have a spare, because sometimes you can't find a match later. Related: LED Holiday Lights: 6 Need-to-Know Tips HL: How to Turn On Display 400,000 Lights? RT: I have two separate meters just to run the Christmas display. We have a total of 70 circuits. We'll check the circuits with an amplifier to make sure they're not overloaded. OJ: How many extensions do you use? RT: About 300 short circuits because most of our circuits are buried underground. We use green and brown cords so you can't really see them. HL: More is always better when the Christmas light appears? RT: People don't realize it's a big display, you have to add circuits, which means calling an electrician and it's going to be expensive. A homeowner can have a beautiful courtyard with only half a dozen figures. OJ: Hanging lights can be dangerous. Have you ever been hurt? RT: I cut my fingers on broken lights, but I didn't get off the ladder. If there's ice or snow on the roof, we don't go up. Related: Holiday Lighting Safety Checklist OJ: What's the best way to attach lights to your house? RT: Mostly I use plastic shingles and gutter clips. I have some permanently equipped clips of the eso, but every few years I replace them because the sun eats the plastic. HL: What is the least favorite part of installing a display? RT: Going through every set of lights instead of any bulb that doesn't work - it's the most boring. Spends hours of maintenance on a large The average person would be overwhelmed; Sometimes I'm swamped. OJ: Is there any friendly competition between the display and the Fauchers light show, also in Delaware? RT: He claims to have more light, but I don't feel like we're in the race. More power for him. I know what it takes to do what I do. OJ: Why do you spend so much time and effort on this display? RT: Years ago I had a personal thing happening in my life - a perforated ulcer. When I recovered, I was looking for a purpose. That's my goal, to make people happy. I like to see the joy and smile on the faces of young people and the young people at heart. Related: 7 Tips for Perfect Holiday Home for Not-So-Perfect People Cleaning & Decluttering A Bleach solution or rubbing alcohol is the best option to keep your home disinfected. How to disinfect your home with Coronavirus at the time of the winterizing home checklist will help keep your house comfortable and safe for winter frigid attack. 5 Crucial cold weather tips for preparing your house for winter should be the home of the block that bugs are running. 7 Ways to Make Your Yard & Home in the Bug-Free Zone More Curb Appeal, With Fewer Worries. That's what these trees offer. 5 trees that can withstand the worst storms and still look beautiful You get more liveable space while getting rid of the clutter. Everybody wins! Loft & Basement Storage Ideas to get more space When it's time to decorate holiday lights, nothing can be more frustrating than needing to untangle the web of light strings before you start. When this happens, the problem, of course, usually comes at the end of the previous festive lighting season, when the lights were taken off and put away. Here are some tips to make your life much easier in the next lighting season: Check for light strings on broken or faulty bulbs at the end of the season when you're still stretched out. Just plug them in and look for dead bulbs. If you find a casual non-working bulb, try wiggling and twisting slightly to make it work again. If this does not do the trick, put a short ribbon on the wire next to each dead bulb to identify its location. Then pull out the light strings and replace the faulty or missing bulbs. You can buy a cheap Christmas light tester on Amazon.Super smart! This package keeps the Christmas lights organized and protected – the light strings wrap around the reeled cards. If the entire length of the light strings does not work, the problem is with the fuse or wire. If you can't fix the light strings, give them to charity. Don't pack them up to be dealt with next year. Simple plastic winding is a cheap solution for storing Christmas lights. Pull up the strings of light — don't just roll them up and stuff them back into their original boxes. There are several products available online that make this job easier, or you can make your own winders. For example, you can wind indoor lights around clothes hangers, or make a simple winding by cutting one opening on opposite sides of an 8-by-10 piece piece Just pull out the end points between connectors and wind a string of a cardboard winder. Commercial plastic winders, reels and reels are also available for indoor and outdoor lamps. For example, the simple plastic winder shown here costs less than \$7 online on Amazon and makes it work fast with a set of lights. Canvas carrier holds three spindle lights. This is an orderly response if only a few light strings. For a fuller answer, you can buy cardboard or plastic winders and reels that fit into storage containers. Some examples appear on this page — just click on the pictures to buy them on Amazon. For really long strings, you can also use a small garden hose spindle. Be careful with light strings. They're not very durable. It doesn't take much to make them impractical. Be careful not to break or loosen the bulbs or break the wires when you unwind them. RELATED COMMENTS:• How to hang christmas lights• How to make a Christmas tree further; 8 things to do before guests arrive• How to make a home for overnight guests The best way to store Christmas lights has been last modified: Don Vandervort December 2, 2019, HomeTips © 1997-2020 decoration for the holidays can be a joyful time, with lots of love and laughter. That said, certain types of decorating are not funny or something you definitely like to do. Example: Putting up Christmas lights. If you're the lucky one to be tasked with decorating the house with hundreds of shiny lights, you know what we're thinking. See why putting Christmas lights is pretty much the worst holiday chore ever, in advance. 1. You spend more time untangling them than actually placing them always end up in a tangled mess. | Ryan McVay/iStock/Getty Images We all agree: Untangling Christmas lights is one of the worst holiday tasks. No matter how nicely organized and put in storage the year before, somehow you still end up with a big tangled mess. 2. You have to spend an unnecessary amount of time in the cold Do you think this kind of display will be put up in 15 minutes? | Matt Cardy/Getty Images No one wants to stand outside for the cold hours, let alone do it in the name of Christmas lights. No matter where you live – or how cold it gets – putting light on the cold always seems like a good idea until you actually have to do it. 3. I have boxes of Christmas lights, but I still end up buying more each year, and the displays are probably ravaged or crazy expensive. | Thinkstock Images/Getty Images Going to Walmart during holiday shopping season can be a nightmare in its own right. But, going to Walmart with just a set of Christmas lights is even worse. No matter how many lights you have, it's never going to be enough. 4. The electricity bill goes up it definitely costs a nice penny. | Mark Nolan/Stringer/Getty Images Another thing to keep in mind when setting up holiday lights? A Lets just say the holidays are a great time for electricity. electricity. (and those who don't get tasked with putting Christmas lights on). 5. Sure, packing a tree trunk and branches of lights looks good, but it's an absolute pain It's an obscene amount of work. | Mohd Rasfan/AFP/Getty Images The next time your family asks you to wrap your trees in shining lights, you'll have to volunteer to do so. That'll teach them. 6. You're always missing something you'll probably make more of a trip to the attic. | iStock/Getty Images No matter how organized your attic, basement, and storage compartments can be, there's always something missing. You could have sworn the extra light bulbs were in the box with the ornaments. And what happened to that glowing Santa Claus? 7. You basically risk your life to put lights on the roof of the house The roof is a dangerous thing to decorate. | iStock/Getty Images Christmas lights aren't just a hassle to be uneated. They are dangerous – read: they are life-threatening – too! A trip on the roof or ladder, and you could really get hurt! 8. Don't even make us started court inflatable maybe just skip it this year. | Matt Cardy/Getty Images These things turn anyone who has put them together in the Grinch. 9. Everyone wants to see the Christmas lights, but no one offers to help put them up (or take them off) No one is particularly useful. | Mladen Antonov/AFP/Getty Images It's not even you who wants Christmas lights. So, why is that one to take them (not to mention: take it off)? 10. The thread always seems to run out right before it reaches the upper part of the tree Somehow it always runs out. | Martin Barraud/iStock/Getty Images Another thing you hate about Christmas lights? We'll pack the tree. Not because it's heavy or anything, but because for some reason, no matter how hard we try, the thread always runs out before it reaches the top of the tree. 11. When a light bulb goes out, the whole thread goes on strike If you find a set that doesn't, buy them all. | Martin Barraud/Getty Images While the newer lights aren't supposed to come with this frustrating feature, we still somehow manage to go back to the old way. 12. Broken glass at the bottom of the storage box is never a good sign even though it hasn't moved in a year, there will be a bulb that's broken. | Stockbyte/Getty Images After spending 11 months in storage, there's no telling what your lights were up to. Example: Broken glass at the bottom of the storage compartment. Not only do you need to clean, you need to find the bulbs that are broken, replace them, and hope the whole thread is still lit. 13. Never find out how you want most things to look better in your head. | Karl Weatherly/Getty Images Putting up holiday lights during the day is probably the best - you know: safest - way to house the holiday spirit. That said, sunlight and moonlight are much different, and once lit, the lights don't look like they did when you first put them on. You have to unpack, disconnect and unwrath it until everything looks good. 14. There are a lot of trial and error words it's an art of non-science. | Martin Poole/Getty Images Talking about the lights not turning out how you want them, there's a lot of trial and error involved when putting on festive lights. With the packaging of the Christmas tree with the pinning lights on the edges of the house, it would be a Christmas miracle if you got it right for the first time. 15. Your cat likes Christmas lights a little too much If it's shiny, your cat will destroy it. | Martin Poole/Getty Images If you're a cat-owner, you know how frustrating it can be to decorate a tree. While your cat may look cute cuddled up on the wooden skirt, playing with the lights while you're trying to decorate said wood is not. Check out the Cheat Sheet on Facebook! Facebook!

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