

The Ultimate Neighborhood Christmas Light Scorecard

General Scoring	
<p>Coverage (0-10 Points) <i>This scores how well the home owners have covered their house/yard with lights and decorations. Too few lights and decorations should result in a deduction. Keep in mind that the opposite also holds true – decorative overkill can also warrant a loss in points. Clark Griswold’s house had great coverage, but his lights caused severe retinal damage; ocular injury should always result in a lower score.</i></p>	_____
<p>Atmosphere (0-10 Points) <i>This scores the level of Christmas Spirit you feel as you stand in front of the house. Atmosphere can come from a variety of different sources, depending on the scorer. Lights and decorations are not necessarily the only variables in calculating this score. For example, in colder climates the presence of snow can cause a point increase. Also, an owner who comes out with complimentary glasses of egg nog can earn himself/herself a higher score (unless you are lactose intolerant, in which case such an action may result in a significant deduction).</i></p>	_____
<p>Showmanship (0-10 Points) <i>This scores the home owner’s attention to detail. An obvious amount of forethought and planning should be apparent to the scorer. Special touches like creative use of lights/decorations or the use of music and/or projection equipment should result in a higher score. Decorations that seemed to be placed willy-nilly should cause a deduction. If you can see into the house and you notice that their stockings are hung by the chimney without care, this score should be an automatic zero.</i></p>	_____
General Scoring Total:	

Extra Credit	
<p>Nativity Scene (+7 Points) <i>A house that gives credit to the real meaning of Christmas earns seven additional points. It’s in the Bible.</i></p>	_____
<p>Christmas Tree Visible from the Street (+5 Points) <i>If you can see the family Christmas tree from the street, Christmas Spirit soars along with a few extra points.</i></p>	_____
<p>Extra Effort Bonus (+3 Points) <i>Placing lights and decorations with an eight-foot A-frame ladder is one thing, but getting on the roof (or climbing above 12 feet) deserves some hazard pay.</i></p>	_____
<p>Festive Street Bonus (+2 Points) <i>If the house is on a street with more than half of the other houses illuminated with Holiday cheer, sing a verse of “It’s Beginning to Look A Lot Like Christmas” and add two points.</i></p>	_____
Extra Credit Total:	

Automatic Deductions

Partial Blinkage (-5 Points)

Five strands of lights are neatly hung together, but only one is blinking. What the...?

Unnecessary Blinkage (-5 Points)

Some Christmas light manufacturers are trying to push the envelope with how much blinking the human eye can withstand. If it blinks like a strobe light, it's ruining Christmas for the whole neighborhood.

Annoying Lawn Decorations (-3 Points)

Just because Home Depot had a sale on inflatable lawn decorations doesn't mean you had to buy two dozen. If the decorations are cluttering the front yard, leaning over from improper installation, or have anything to do with Nascar, it's time to pull the plug on a few points.

Multiple Burnouts (-2 Points)

Strand and bulb burnouts are the handiwork of angry South Pole elves. Any more than two burnouts in a display should cause a deduction. If a major storm just blew through the night before, Yuletide etiquette requires a 48 hour window for the home owner to rectify the situation.

Irregular Color Patterns (-2 Points)

If a green bulb burns out, it should always be replaced with a green bulb. Messing up the strand's color pattern is something that only a Grinch would do, and should thus be scored by all.

Colored Coach Lights (+2 or -2 Points)

*This one's tricky. Generally, the one-red-one-green colored coach lights are an eyesore and should earn an automatic two-point deduction. However, if the coach lights are a **subtle** part of a larger, high-scoring holiday installation, they may earn the home owner an extra two points for successfully incorporating an annoying decoration strategy. Having nothing other than colored coach lights is an automatic 1,000 point deduction.*

Total Deductions:

General Score	+	Extra Credit	-	Deductions	=	Grand Total
_____		_____		_____		_____



• **40-50 Points** - Santa uses a picture of your house as his computer wallpaper.

• **30-40 Points** - Incredible! Did you hire Buddy the Elf to help you decorate?

• **20-30 Points** - You're becoming a regular Holiday Cheermiester.

• **10-20 Points** - A bit Scroogey, but at least you did something.

• **0-10 Points** - Were you raised in a household of Grinches?