

CANDLE SAFETY

Candles are available in nearly every size, shape, color and aroma. Seven out of 10 households use candles, especially around the holidays. When used improperly or left unattended, a candle can get hot enough to burn down an entire house. *37% of candle fires were the result of candles being left unattended or not properly controlled.*

A candle that is not properly maintained can get build-up on the wick, causing it to emit dark smoke or soot on the ceilings, walls and furniture. Keep the wick trimmed to 1/4". Never leave wick trimmings, matches or other things that could burn in the candle. Never burn candles that have flammable items imbedded in them.

Allow candles to cool before handling or moving them, trimming the wick, relighting them and placing the lid back on top. Never use candles in areas where they could be knocked over by children or pets. Never place lit candles in windows with blinds or curtains. *In 13% of home candle fires, mattresses or bedding were the first things ignited.*

Keep lit candles at least 1 foot away from anything that can burn, including: curtains, walls, cabinets, upholstered furniture, mattresses/bedding, clothing, books, paper, Christmas trees and flammable decorations. Be sure candleholders fit securely and do not tip over, are made from non-flammable materials, are large enough to collect dripping wax and are placed on a sturdy and level heat-resistant surface in uncluttered areas.

Always extinguish candles before leaving the room or going to sleep. To prevent hot wax from splattering, extinguish a candle by using a candle snuffer or holding fingers in front of the flame and blowing softly. Never burn a candle completely down to the bottom. Taper and pillar candles should only burn down to within 2" from the bottom. Votives and container candles should be extinguished before the last 1/2" of wax melts.

Remember: Keep all matches and lighters out of the reach of all children. Never leave a burning candle unattended. Consider using wickless or battery operated candles. Always supervise children around all candles and never allow children or teens to have candles in their bedrooms. Keep candles away from pets and avoid walking with any lit candles. *9% of home candle fires were due to children playing with candles or playing with something flammable near candles.*

In an emergency, never use a candle to search for items in a confined space, for light when checking pilot lights, for light when fueling equipment with flammable fuels, such as kerosene heaters or lanterns, or for temporary lighting in power outages. Use a flashlight instead. *A candle in a jack-o-lantern can be dangerous. Consider a flashlight instead.*