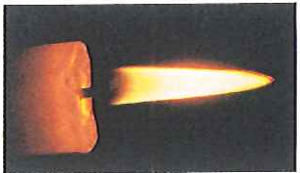


Safe Placement

- 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.
- Keep candles and all open flames away from flammable liquids.



19% of all home candle fires occur because combustible material was left too close to the candle.

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
- flammable decorations

Candleholders should:

- fit securely and not tip over.
- be non-flammable, made from metal, glass, or ceramic.
- be large enough to collect dripping wax.
- be placed on a sturdy and level heat-resistant surface in uncluttered areas.



Because of holidays, December has almost twice the number of home candle fires than any other month.

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.
 - for temporary lighting in power outages, use a flashlight instead.

A candle in a jack-o-lantern can be dangerous.

Consider a flashlight instead.



Lead Exposure

According to the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, only 3% of all burning candles may be omitting unsafe levels of lead. To determine if your candles are dangerous:

- Inspect the wick of your candle to see if it contains a metal "wire" center.
- Contact the candle's manufacturer.
- If your candle contains the wire, avoid burning it.



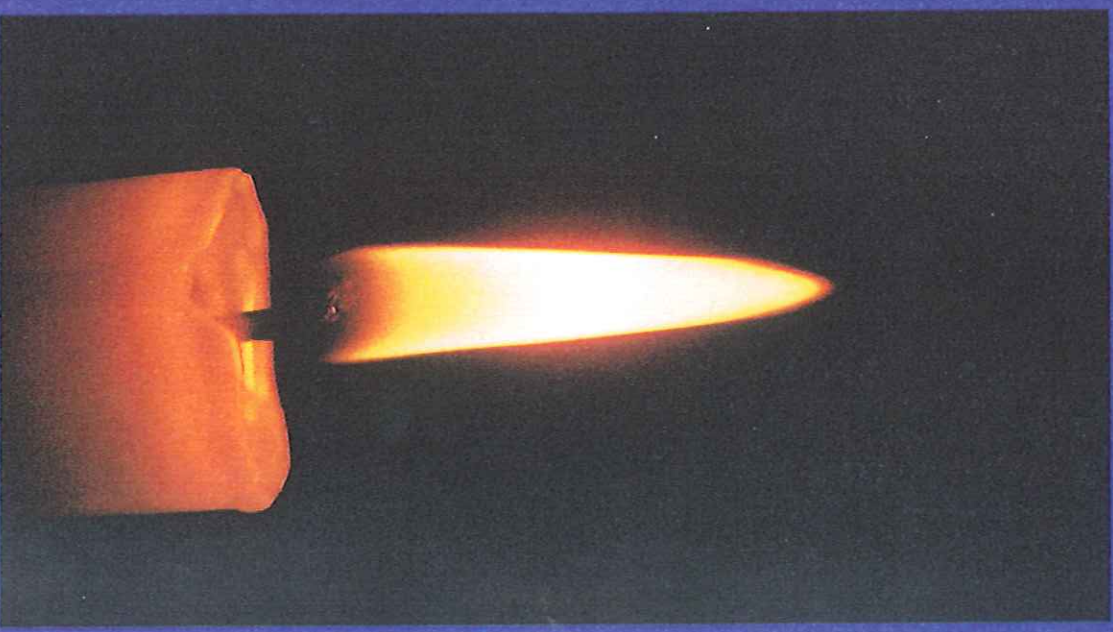
For emergency lighting, use a flashlight instead of a candle.

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Candle Safety

Flames Cause Fires



National Fire Safety Council, Inc.

Strike Out

Candles are available in nearly every size, shape, color, and aroma. The candle industry has had a steady growth of 10-15% annually, which now reaches \$2.3 billion in sales a year.

Seven out of 10 households use candles, especially around the holidays.

Many people enjoy the ambience of a flickering candle, but when used improperly or when left unattended, a candle can get hot enough to burn down an entire house.

- Throughout the 1990s, candle fires caused nearly \$25 million in damage.
- 85% of candle fires are caused by human error.
- 44% of home candle fires start in the bedroom.
- Candle fires reached a 19-year high of 12,540 in 1998 resulting in 157 deaths, 1,106 injuries, and costing \$176.1 million in property damage.

Maintenance & Care

A candle that is not properly maintained can get build-up on the wick (*mushrooming*), causing it to emit dark smoke or soot on the ceiling, 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.
- Burn 1 hour for each inch in diameter at a time. (Example: 4" diameter = 4 hours of burning)
- Never allow flames to touch the sides of the container.
- Never burn a candle in a drafty area.



37% of candle fires were the result of candles being left unattended or not properly controlled.

Allow candles to cool before:

- handling or moving them.
- trimming the wick.
- relighting them.
- placing the lid back on top.



In 13% of home candle fires, mattresses or bedding were the first things ignited.

Extinguish Safely

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
- 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.

Do's & Don'ts

- Keep all matches and lighters out of the reach of children.
- Never leave a burning candle unattended.
- Consider using battery-operated or flameless candles.
- Supervise children around all candles at all times (*including all holiday candles*).

- Never allow children or teens to have candles in their bedrooms.
- Keep candles away from any pets.
- 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.