

## 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.*

### 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.*

Keep lit candles at least 1 foot away from anything that can burn including:

- |                         |                         |
|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| ✎ Curtains              | ✎ Clothing              |
| ✎ Walls                 | ✎ Books                 |
| ✎ Cabinets              | ✎ Paper                 |
| ✎ Upholstered furniture | ✎ Christmas trees       |
| ✎ Mattresses/bedding    | ✎ Flammable decorations |

## 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 emergency 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 manufacture.
- ◆ If your candle contains the wire, avoid burning it.



# CANDLE SAFETY



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## 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 1990's, 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. (EX: 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 AND 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.**