

SAFE USE OF CANDLES

According to the National Fire Protection Agency, candle fires account for 2.4 % of all fires, result in 6 % of total injuries from fires and 3% of all fatalities from fires. Due to the significant increased usage of candles, these figures have been increasing. Candles, of course, are still rank far behind cigarettes, matches and lighters as the product of ignition in residential fires.

The most startling statistics from National Fire Incident Reporting System (NFIRS) is the fact that nearly 85% of the candle fire incidents were started because of misuse of the product. Following are some of the categories of ignition factors cited by NFIRS:

Combustible material too close to heat	17.7%
Unattended	16.0%
Misuse, not specified	13.1%
Inadequate control of open fire	9.2%

NEVER LEAVE A BURNING CANDLE UNATTENDED

Using Candles Safely

Remember: A candle is an open flame. It can easily ignite any combustible nearby.

- Trim wicks 1/8" to 1/4" prior to each use
- Do not burn candles more than four hours at a time
- Extinguish all candles when leaving the area, never leave burning candles unattended.
- Keep candles away from items that can catch fire such as clothing, books, paper, curtains, flammable decorations or anything that burns.
- Make sure candles are placed on a secure piece of furniture in sturdy holders that will not tip over. Holders should be made from material that can not burn.
- Make sure the candle holder is big enough to collect dripping wax.
- Do not place lit candles in windows, where blinds or curtains can close over them.
- Do not use candles in places where they may be knocked over by the children or pets.
- Keep candles and all open flames away from flammable liquids.
- When purchasing or using candles, consider what would happen if the candle burned down. Could it burn the candle holder or decorative material nearby? Extinguish candles when they get within two inches of the holder or decorative material.

Using candles during power outages

Remember: Flashlights and other lights generated by batteries are much safer light sources than candles.

- Try to avoid carrying a lit candle. When you carry a candle, you are carrying something that would start a fire. Do not use a candle to go into a closet to look for things.
- Never use a candle for light when fueling equipment such as kerosene heater or lantern. The flame may ignite the fumes.
- Extinguish all candles when leaving home or when going to sleep.

Using candles where young children are present

- Keep candles up high out of the reach of children.
- Never leave a child unattended in a room with a candle. A child should not sleep in a room with a lit candle.
- Keep all matches and lighters up high and out of the sight and reach of children, preferably in a locked cabinet.

Using candles for special events

- No person shall cause or permit any open flame to be used in any place or public assemblage, or drinking or eating establishments, except when used in conjunction with approved heating or cooking appliance, or under written permit from the Environmental Health & Safety department.\
- No person shall use or be allowed to use any open flame, burning candle or candle in connection with any public meeting or gathering for purpose of deliberation, worship, entertainment, amusement, instruction, education, recreation, awaiting assemblages such as churches, schools, restaurants, eating establishments, cocktail lounges or bars without first obtaining a permit.
- To apply for a candle permit please complete the application (click here to download) and submit to the Department of Environmental Health & Safety at CSC 162 or by fax at (305) 348-3574

Candle Permit - Rule for Safety

The Environmental Health & Safety Department requires the following safety rules to be followed when a candle permit is issued:

- Only candles and equipment for candles that have a permit can be used.
- Candles that are used as aisle markers or any other use where the candle will be within reach of anyone will be protected by a glass globe that extends above the flame of the candle.
- Candles and equipment within reach of anyone will be securely attached to prevent tipping if bumped.
- Only non-combustible decorations will be used on candle equipment.

- For weddings, the bride and bridesmaids will be cautioned about flammability of their dresses and to stay clear of the candle flame.
- Unity candles will be allowed only if a candle lighter is used.
- Candelabra will be placed behind or to the side, out of reach of anyone.

NOTE: IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS, PLEASE CONTACT THE ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH & SAFETY DEPARTMENT AT (305) 348-2621