



Candle Safety

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People have safely enjoyed using candles for centuries. Their colors and scents enhance everyday life and evoke memories of special events. Candles are a source of light and delight when used properly and according to manufacturers' directions. However, if certain precautions are not taken by the consumer, candles can also become a factor in a chain of events that can result in unnecessary injury and even death.

The United States Fire Administration (USFA) currently estimates that candles are responsible for approximately 15,600 residential structure fires each year and cause 1,270 civilian injuries, 150 fatalities, and \$539 million in property losses. December is the peak month for candle fires and Christmas is the peak day.

The USFA's National Fire Incident Reporting System, and the National Fire Protection Agency, suggest that candle fire incidents occur most often in the bedroom (40%); followed by the living room, family room or den (17%); the bathroom (14%); the kitchen (8%); 3% started unclassified function areas; and 3% started in dining rooms or bar areas. Most candle fire incidents are found to be due to consumer inattention to basic fire safety or to the misuse of candles. Nearly 50 percent of residential candle fires reportedly occurred because a combustible item was placed too close to the candle. In addition, nearly 18 percent occurred because candles were unattended, abandoned or inadequately controlled.

The Consumer Product Safety Commission has issued 30 recalls of nearly 5.4 million candles or candleholders since 1993. These recalls have been because the candle flame burns several inches above the candle or candleholder, which themselves are flammable.

The Leading Causes for Residential Candle Fire Incidents Were Reported as Follows:

Too close to combustibles	55%
Candle unattended	18%
Falling asleep	12%
Control of flame	10%
Child playing	5%

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Candle Safety Tips

- 🕯️ Keep candles at least 12 inches from anything that can burn.
- 🕯️ Use sturdy, safe candleholders.
- 🕯️ Never leave a burning candle unattended.
- 🕯️ Extinguish candles when you leave a room.
- 🕯️ Be careful not to splatter wax when extinguishing a candle.
- 🕯️ Avoid using candles in bedrooms and sleeping areas.
- 🕯️ Always use a flashlight, not a candle, for emergency lighting.
- 🕯️ Consider using battery-operated flameless candles.

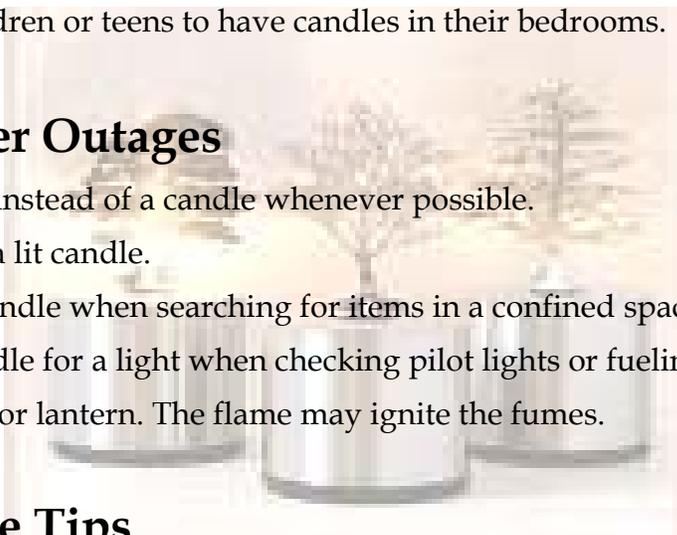


Candles and Children

- 🕯️ Keep candles up high out of 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.
- 🕯️ Don't allow children or teens to have candles in their bedrooms.

During Power Outages

- 🕯️ Use a flashlight instead of a candle whenever possible.
- 🕯️ Avoid carrying a lit candle.
- 🕯️ Don't use a lit candle when searching for items in a confined space.
- 🕯️ Never use a candle for a light when checking pilot lights or fueling equipment such as a kerosene heater or lantern. The flame may ignite the fumes.



Candle Usage Tips

- 🕯️ Recommended burning time is one hour per inch diameter of the candle.
- 🕯️ Hold your finger in front of the flame as you blow the candle out. The air will flow around your finger and extinguish the candle from both sides. This prevents any hot wax from splattering.
- 🕯️ Keep wax pool free of wick trimmings and debris.

For More Information

www.ocfa.org
www.nfpa.org
www.candles.org
www.usfa.fema.gov