



Candle-related fires are a year-round concern especially during the winter months. Keep your home and family safe by using candles responsibly!

BEFORE BURNING

Purchase wisely. Buy good quality candles that are smoke-free, drip-free, and lead-free.

Trim the wick. Before lighting a candle, trim the wick to 1/4 inch to avoid uneven burning, dripping, and flaring.

Use sturdy holders. Secure candles in sturdy, non-combustible holders that won't tip over and can catch melting wax.

Pick the perfect spot. Place candles on stable, heat-resistant surfaces, in well-ventilated areas away from drafts, and at least 12 inches from anything that can catch fire. Keep candles out of reach of children and pets and avoid use in bedrooms and sleeping areas.

WHILE BURNING

Light with care. Use a long match or long-reach lighter to avoid painful burns. Keep matches and lighters out of reach of children.

Keep a close eye. Don't leave a burning candle unattended. A candle is an open flame that can easily cause a fire.

Stay in place. Don't touch a burning candle until it has been extinguished and has had time to cool. Hot candle wax can cause burns and the flame may ignite flammable materials.

WHEN EXTINGUISHING

Know when it's time. It is time to put the candle out when you are leaving the room, going to bed, when it has melted down to 1/2 an inch, the flame becomes too high, or flickers repeatedly.

Use care and caution. Extinguish a candle with a candle snuffer. It minimizes smoke and wax splatter. Never use water as it can cause hot wax splatter and could break the candle holder.

Leave when it's cool. Make sure the candle is completely out before leaving the room.

DURING A POWER OUTAGE

Use flashlights and other battery-operated lights, if possible, instead of candles. They are safer sources of light. Plan ahead and have spare batteries on-hand.

If you must use candles, follow the safety tips above, and NEVER use them to search for items in a confined space or when checking pilot lights or fueling equipment.