



TOWN OF BRIGHTON
Office of the Fire Marshal
2300 Elmwood Avenue
Rochester, New York 14618
(585) 784-5220 Office
(585) 784-5207 Fax

Candle Fire Safety Guidelines

This guideline describes some basic fire safety requirements for the safe use of candles within your home.

Candle with Care

Candles may be pretty to look at but they are a growing cause of home fires-and home fire deaths. Remember, a candle is an open flame, meaning that it can easily ignite any combustible material nearby. And because candle fires spread so quickly, it's essential that you have working smoke alarms in your residence and a home fire escape plan ready to go.

Follow these tips to help you use candles safely.

Reducing the risk

- Never leave a burning candle unattended. Extinguish all candles when you leave the room or go to bed. Almost half of all home fires started by candles begin in the bedroom. The National Fire Prevention Association discourages the use of candles in the bedroom and other areas where people may fall asleep.
- Keep candles at least one foot away from anything that can burn, including curtains, blinds, wallpaper, clothing or any other material that can catch fire.
- Don't place lit candles in windows or near doorways where drafts could bring combustibles in contact with the flame.
- Keep candles away from flammable liquids.

Remember...



Candles need room!

Remember! Candle fires are PREVENTABLE!

In the event of a fire, remember time is the biggest enemy and every second counts!

Escape first, and then call for help. Develop a home fire escape plan and practice it frequently with your family. Designate a meeting place outside. Make sure everyone in the family knows two ways to escape from every room.

Never stand up in a fire, always crawl low under the smoke, and try to keep your mouth covered. Never return to a burning building for any reason: it may cost you your life.

Finally, having a working smoke alarm dramatically increases your chances of surviving a fire.

"Candle with Care"

- Use candle holders that are sturdy, won't tip over easily, are made from a material that can't burn, and are large enough to collect dripping wax.
- Place candle holders on a sturdy, uncluttered surface-away from edges and any place where they could be knocked over by kids or pets.
- Light candles carefully. Keep your hair and any loose clothing away from the flame.
- Keep candle wicks trimmed to one-quarter inch.
- Extinguish candles when they burn down to within two inches of their holder or any decorative material.
- Extinguish candles carefully, using a long-handled candle snuffer or a soft, directed breath. Be careful not to splatter wax when extinguishing. Do not leave the room until wicks have stopped glowing.
- Avoid using candles during a power outage. Have flashlights and battery-powered lighting on hand for emergency lighting. - link to national fuel fund info.

Candles and kids

- Never leave a child unattended in a room with a burning candle.
- Don't allow kids or teens to burn candles in their bedrooms.
- Don't let kids play with candles or dripping wax - or with materials that could catch fire near candles.
- Store matches and lighters up high and out of children's sight and reach, preferably in a locked cabinet.

Candle Fires By the Numbers

Candles cause an estimated 15,600 fires in residential structures, 150 deaths, 1,270 injuries, and \$539 million in estimated direct property damage each year.

- Over half (55%) of home candle fires start because the candle is too close to some combustible material.
- More candle fires (38%) begin in the bedroom than in any other room.
- Falling asleep is a factor in 12% of home candle fires and 26% of the associated deaths.
- Half of all civilian candle fire deaths occur between Midnight and 6am.
- December is the peak month for candle fires; Christmas is the peak day.
- Young children and older adults have the highest death risk from candle fires.
- The risk of a fatal candle fire appears higher when candles are used for light.