

## 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.

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

- curtains
- walls
- cabinets
- upholstered furniture
- mattresses/bedding
- clothing
- books
- paper
- Christmas trees
- flammable decorations

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.

## 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 temporary 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 manufacturer.
- If your candle contains the wire, avoid burning it.



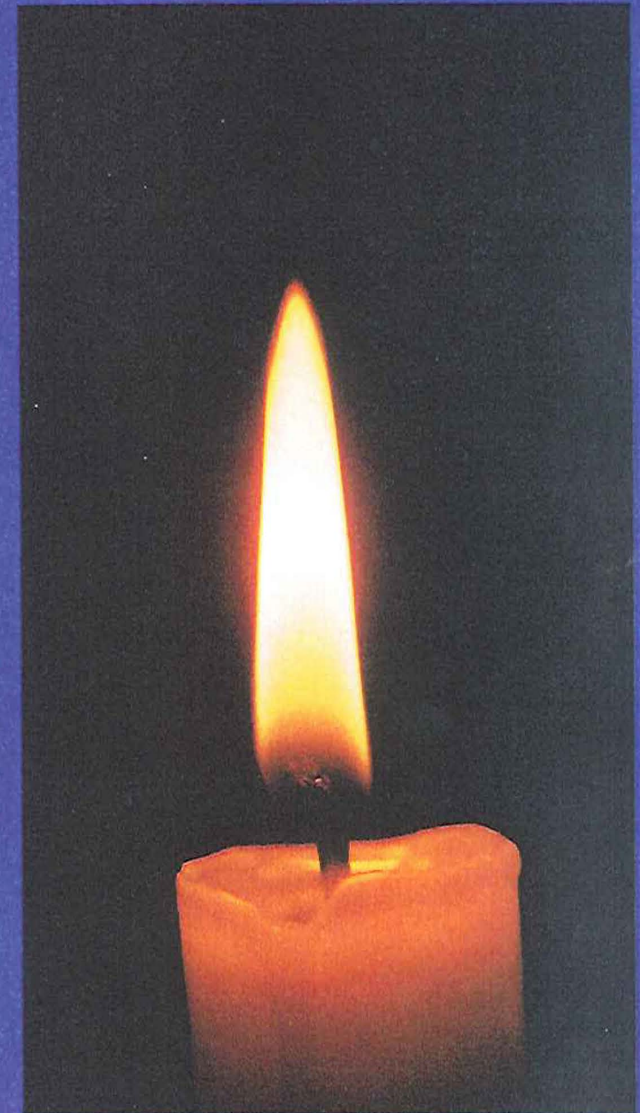
For emergency lighting, use a flashlight instead of a candle.

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# Candle Safety

## Flames Cause Fires



National Fire Safety Council, Inc.

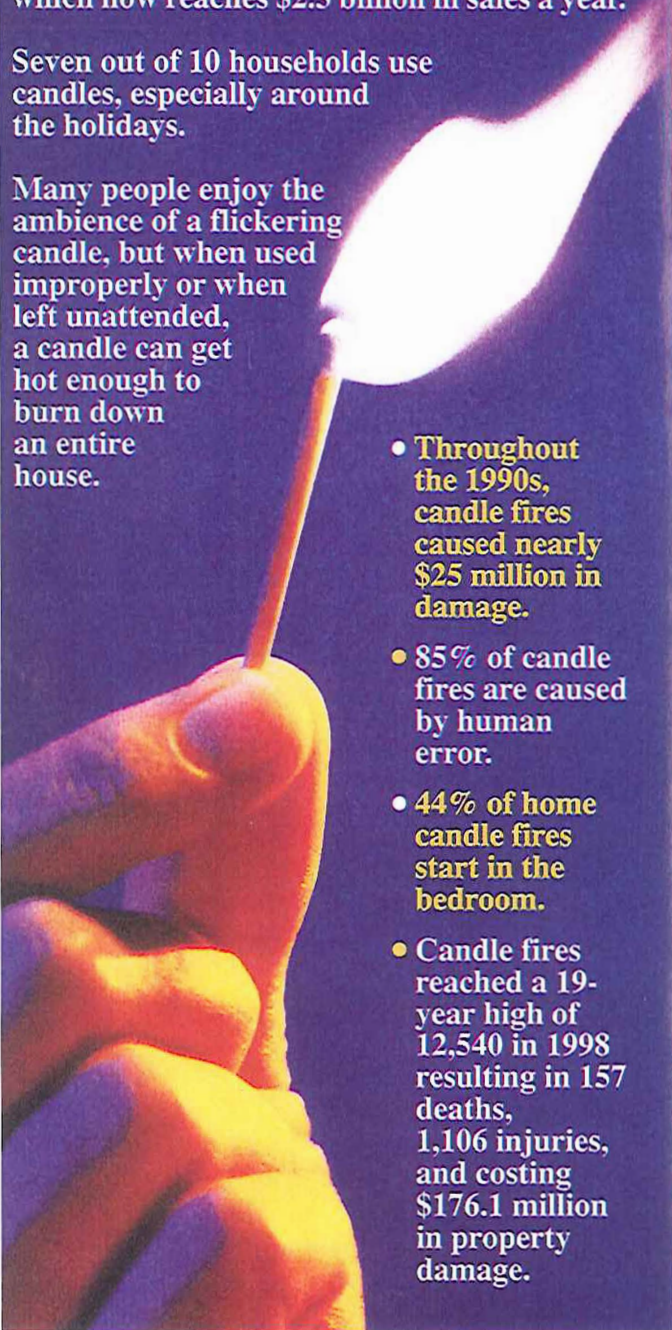
# Strike Out

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 1990s, 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 and 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. (Example: 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.

## Dos 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.**