

CANDLE SAFETY

According to the National Fire Protection Association, candle fires are more common around the holidays because more people use them as part of their holiday decorations.

The following are candle safety tips for a safe and happy holiday:

- Use candles only in rooms where there is a responsible adult to control and oversee flames.
- Never leave a candle unattended. If you must leave the room, be sure to extinguish the candle.
- A child should not sleep in a room with a lit candle. Do not allow children and teens to have candles in their bedrooms.
- Keep candles up high and out of children's reach.
- Keep candles away from items, such as clothing, books, papers, Christmas trees, decorations, window blinds, and curtains, which may catch fire.
- Never use candles on a Christmas tree or other evergreens.
- Keep candles away from high-traffic locations, including areas accessible to children or pets, where they can be easily knocked over.
- Place candles on stable surfaces in sturdy holders that grip the candle securely and will not tip over. Ensure the holder cannot burn and it is large enough to collect dripping wax.
- Keep candle wicks trimmed to one-quarter inch and extinguish taper and pillar candles when they burn to within two inches of the holder. Votive and container candles should be extinguished before the last half-inch of wax begins to melt.
- Avoid candles with combustible items embedded in them.
- Do not place lit candles in windows where blinds and curtains can close over them.
- Avoid carrying a lit candle. Do not use a lit candle when searching for items in a confined space.
- Use extreme caution if you carry a lit candle. Hold it well away from clothing and combustibles that may be near your pathway and avoid loose, flowing clothing that is not flame-resistant.
- Candles produce poisonous carbon monoxide as part of the combustion process. Use them in open and well-ventilated areas.
- Be extremely careful when using candles for lighting and, if possible, use battery-powered lights.