



THE
CONCORD GROUP
INSURANCE COMPANIES

Tips

Safely Burning Candles



Keep your personal time special (and safe)

Candles can be a special part of a holiday tradition, celebration, a romantic dinner or atmosphere. Never forget that you're dealing with an **open flame**.

Use these reminders to keep yourself, your family and your guests safe:

- Never leave a burning candle unattended. This is especially important if you have children or pets in your home.
- Place your candle well out of reach of children and pets; and don't let teens burn candles in their bedroom.
- Keep candles at least 12 inches from anything that will burn and away from a draft. Many fires are started when a moving curtain touches the flame.
- Use sturdy, safe, candleholders and place your candles on an uncluttered surface where they won't be bumped or brushed against.
- Avoid using candles with combustible materials (pinecones, twigs, etc.) embedded in the wax.
- It's very dangerous to use a candle as light to look into a closet or when fueling equipment such as lanterns or kerosene heaters. The flame could ignite the vapors.
- During a power outage, use flashlights, battery-operated lamps and glow sticks rather than candles for light.

Candle Fire Facts and Figures From the National Fire Protection Association

- Thirty-eight percent (38%) of home candle fires started in the bedroom, resulting in 41% of the associated deaths.
- Falling asleep was a factor in 12% of home candle fires and 26% of the associated deaths.
- The top five days for home candle fires are Christmas, Christmas Eve, New Year's Day, New Year's Eve and Halloween.



Holiday Candles

More candle fires start in December than any other month. Keep your holiday memories good ones.

- Keep candles away from natural and artificial trees.
- Arrange table candles safely away from flammable centerpieces and hanging decorations.
- Place burning candles where they won't be bumped into.
- Never place lit candles in windows where they may ignite blinds or curtains.
- Place candles at least 3" away from each other to ensure they don't melt one another or burn unevenly.
- Discard taper and pillar candles when they burn to 2" from the candle holder. Votive and container candles should be extinguished before the last 1/2" of wax melts.
- Consider electric or battery-operated candles as an alternative.
- Be especially careful when opening gifts. Wrapping paper ignites and burns very quickly.