

Thurston County Development Services Candle Safety



What should I know about using candles safely?

Candles are safe when burned properly, responsibly, and according to manufacturers' directions. When burning candles, consumers should always follow these basic safety rules:

Lighted candles should always be within sight. Never leave a burning candle unattended.

Never burn a candle on or near anything that can catch fire.

Keep candles out of the reach of children and pets.

Read and follow all manufacturer instructions carefully.

Trim the wick to ¼ inch each time before burning.

Always use an appropriate candleholder placed on a stable, heat-resistant surface.

Keep burning candles away from drafts, vents and air currents.

Extinguish a candle if it smokes, flickers repeatedly, or the flame becomes too high. Cool, trim wick, check for drafts, and re-light.

Keep the wax pool free of wick trimmings, matches and debris at all times.

Do not burn a candle for longer than the manufacturer recommends.

Always burn candles in a well-ventilated room.

Extinguish the flame if it comes too close to the holder or container. For a margin of safety, discontinue burning a candle when 2 inches of wax remains (1/2 inch if in a container).

Never touch or move a votive or container candle when the wax is liquid.

Extinguish pillar candles if the wax pool approaches the outer edge.

Place lighted candles at least 3 inches apart from one another.

<http://www.candle-safety.org> (LINK)