

Candles in your home

In recent years, candle use in Canadian homes has grown significantly.

As a result, candles are responsible for an increasing number of house fires, injuries and fire-related deaths.

Did you know?

- Candles left unattended account for 45% of all candle fires. These fires result in millions of dollars in property damages, as well as numerous injuries and deaths each year.

Candle safety tips

- Never leave a burning candle unattended.
- Keep candles away from flammable materials and liquids.
- Keep burning candles out of the reach of children and pets.
- Don't let children play with burning candles or wax drippings.
- Don't place burning candles near windows or doorways where a draft could bring the open flame into contact with combustible materials.
- Don't move a burning candle.
- Use flashlights or battery-powered back-up lighting in the event of a power outage.

Safe candle use

- Light candles carefully and keep loose clothing and hair away from the flame.
- Use candleholders or containers that won't burn or tip over easily. Place candleholders on a sturdy, level, uncluttered and heat resistant surface.
- Keep candlewicks trimmed to about half a centimetre or one-quarter inch.
- Extinguish candles when they burn down to within five centimetres or two inches of their holder, or when there's about one centimetre or less than half an inch of wax remaining in their container.
- Extinguish candles carefully; don't spatter wax or fan the open flame.

What to do in case of a house fire

- Put your fire plan into action and evacuate all members of your family.
- Contact your local fire department immediately, or call 911.
- When it is safe to do so, contact your insurance broker to arrange for an adjuster to handle your claim.