

Religious Candle Safety

Lit candles are used in religious services, in places of worship, and in the home. Whether you are using one candle, or more than one on a candelabra, kinara, or menorah, make sure you take a few moments to learn about using candles safely.

Candle Safety

- » Candles should be placed in a sturdy candle holder.
- » Handheld candles should not be passed from one person to another at any time.
- » When lighting candles at a candle lighting service, have the person with the unlit candle dip their candle into the flame of the lit candle.
- » Lit candles should not be placed in windows where a blind or curtain could catch fire.
- » Candles placed on, or near tables, altars, or shrines, must be watched by an adult.
- » If a candle must burn continuously, be sure it is enclosed in a glass container and placed in a sink, on a metal tray, or in a deep basin filled with water.

General Fire Safety

- Matches and lighters should be stored out of the reach of children, in a locked cabinet.
- Places of worship should be equipped with a fire detection and sprinkler system.
- A home should have smoke alarms on every level, outside each sleeping area and inside each bedroom. For the best protection, interconnect the alarms, so when one sounds, they all sound. Test all smoke alarms at least monthly by pushing the test button. Replace smoke alarms when they are 10 years old.
- Plan and practice a home fire escape drill that includes two ways out of every room and an outside meeting place.



Children & Candles

Candles should be out of the reach of children and pets.

Young children should never hold a lit candle. Consider providing **battery-operated candles** for children. A **parent** should decide when a child is mature enough to light a candle with adult supervision.

FACTS

- ! **December** is the peak time of year for home candle fires.
- ! **More than half** of home candle fires happen when a candle is placed too close to something that can burn.



Your Source for **SAFETY** Information

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Winter Holiday Safety

Winter holidays are a time for families and friends to get together. But that also means a greater risk for fire. Following a few simple tips will ensure a happy and fire-safe holiday season.

HOLIDAY DECORATING

- » Be careful with holiday decorations. Choose decorations that are flame resistant or flame retardant.
- » Keep lit candles away from decorations and other things that can burn.
- » Some lights are only for indoor or outdoor use, but not both.
- » Replace any string of lights with worn or broken cords or loose bulb connections. Read manufacturer's instructions for number of light strands to connect.
- » Use clips, not nails, to hang lights so the cords do not get damaged.
- » Keep decorations away from windows and doors.

HOLIDAY ENTERTAINING

- » Test your smoke alarms and tell guests about your home fire escape plan.
- » Keep children and pets away from lit candles.
- » Keep matches and lighters up high in a locked cabinet.
- » Stay in the kitchen when cooking on the stovetop.
- » Ask smokers to smoke outside. Remind smokers to keep their smoking materials with them so young children do not touch them.
- » Provide large, deep ashtrays for smokers. Wet cigarette butts with water before discarding.



Before Heading Out or to Bed

Blow out lit candles when you leave the room or go to bed. **Turn off** all light strings and decorations before leaving home or going to bed.

FACTS

- ! **Two of every five** home decoration fires are started by candles.
- ! **Nearly half** of decoration fires happen because decorations are placed too close to a heat source.



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