



# Candle Safety

Candles may be pretty to look at but they are a cause of home fires — and home fire deaths. Remember, a candle is an open flame, which means that it can easily ignite anything that can burn. The Fort Wayne Apartment Association, the Fort Wayne Fire Department, and the U. S. Fire Administration want everyone to always be careful when using candles and to remember the following.

## “CANDLE WITH CARE”

- Blow out all candles when you leave the room or go to bed. Avoid the use of candles in the bedroom and other areas where people may fall asleep.
- Keep candles at least 12 inches away from anything that can burn.
- Most children’s first close exposure to candles is on their birthday cake which can easily result in unintentional burns.

## If you do burn candles, make sure that you...

- Use candle holders that are sturdy, and won’t tip over easily.
- Put candle holders on a sturdy, uncluttered surface.
- Light candles carefully. Keep your hair and any loose clothing away from the flame.
- Don’t burn a candle all the way down — put it out before it gets too close to the holder or container.
- Never use a candle if oxygen is used in the home.
- Have flashlights and battery-powered lighting ready to use during a power outage. Never use candles.
- Never leave a child alone in a room with a burning candle. Keep matches and lighters up high and out of children’s reach, in a locked cabinet.
- Keep candles out of reach of curious children and pets.

Think about using flameless candles in your home.  
They look and smell like real candles.

## FACTS

- On average, a candle fire in the home is reported to a U.S. fire department every 34 minutes!
- Thirty-eight percent (38%) of home candle fires started in the bedroom!
- More than half of all candle fires start when things that can burn are too close to the candle!
- Working smoke alarms in the house reduce the chance of dying in a fire by nearly 50%!

## For More Information Contact:

**The U. S. Fire Administration**  
301-447-1000  
[www.usfa.dhs.gov](http://www.usfa.dhs.gov)



**Fort Wayne Fire Department**  
**Safety Education**  
260-427-1483; 427-1368; 427-5179  
[www.fortwaynefiredepartment.org](http://www.fortwaynefiredepartment.org)