



All about candles
and using
them safely



About this guide

This guide contains useful information about candles and using them safely. Learn how candles work, how to display them correctly and how to answer your customers' most common questions.

People use candles in many different ways – for atmosphere, lighting, decoration and to create a pleasant scent in their home. They use candles in different rooms too. Mainly in the living room, but also in the bedroom, kitchen and bathroom.

Some customers worry about the safety aspects of candles, which is why it is so important for us to provide clear, accurate information – in our stores and on our products.

Always take the time to answer our customers' candle-safety questions properly. We want to make sure everyone can enjoy candles without putting themselves or others at risk.



Display candles correctly in room settings

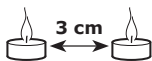
Follow the product communication!

When deciding how to display candles in room settings, this is the basic ground rule. You can find all the relevant safety information on labels, price tags etc.

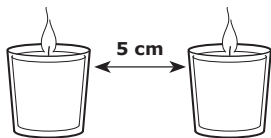
For example, all our candle packaging carries safety symbols. For products like candle holders and lanterns, there is information on the price tag. In some cases, you may also find separate Advice & Instructions relating to the product.

Safety distances

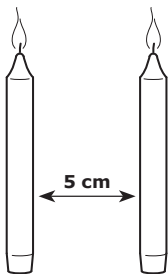
Candles are often placed too close together. This should be avoided since they can melt one another and/or cause heat to build-up. We want to set a good example by adhering to the recommended minimum safety distance when grouping candles for display. You'll find the safety distance for each candle type written on the packaging.



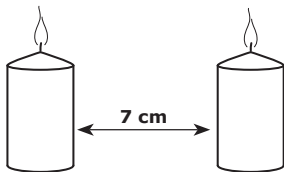
Tealights and candles in metal cup, small and large.



Container candles.



Household candles.



Block candles.



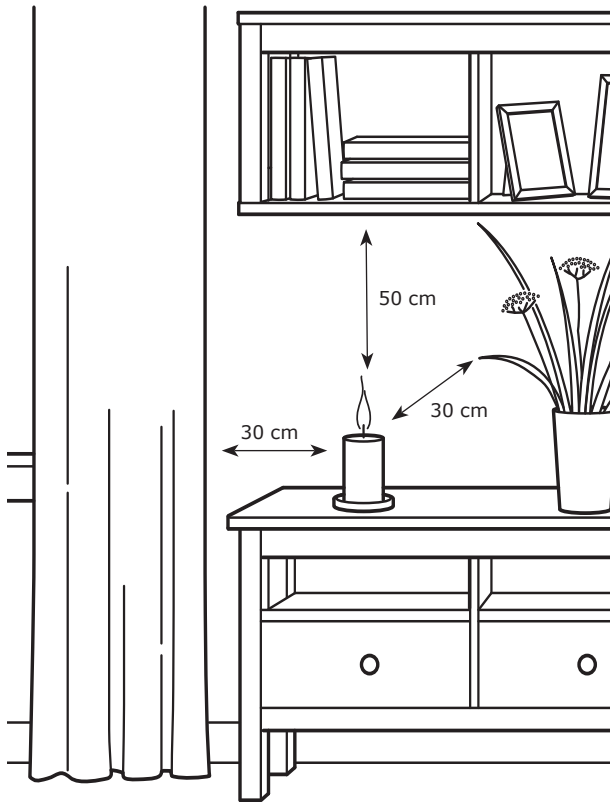
*Floating candles **no safety distance**, but should be shown in a bowl (with water), N.B. never together with any flammable decoration.*

How to display candles in room settings

- Candles should not be displayed close to or on top of any heat source (TV, open fire places, etc.)
- Candles should be at least 30 cm away from anything that can catch fire, such as curtains, dried flowers or other decorations.
- There should always be at least 50 cm of open space above a lit candle – so we don't display candles in book cases, for example.
- Make sure candles are standing up straight if they're displayed in a dish with sand or stones.
- Candles displayed in room settings must have their wicks cut off so that there is no risk of them being lit.
- Candles in functional solutions should be shown with a candle holder. Only use holders that are recommended for use with candles, and be sure to pick a candle and holder that are the correct size to go together.
- To prevent soot marks on the walls make sure to keep a distance between the candle and the wall.

Handle them carefully

It's important to handle our candles with care, in order to prevent the wicks from being damaged.



Good to know about lanterns

- Even if a lantern has a handle it might not be intended to hang. Lanterns not intended for hanging have this information in the product communication part “good to know” and in the advice and instructions.
- To hang lanterns always use a fireproof, heat-resistant material, for example a metal wire. It’s not safe to hang it by a string that can melt or catch fire.
- Some lanterns are also OK for outdoor use. Check product communication to find out which lanterns can be promoted with the outdoor range.





Help customers use candles safely

Safety symbols poster

This poster should be placed in a prominent position in the store so that visitors can see it easily. They may have further questions about candle safety, but this covers the main points.



Always use a candle snuffer

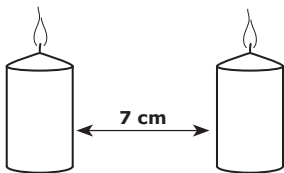
People often blow their candles out or even use water. But this is risky, since burning hot wax can splash and burn the skin, ruin textiles and mark furniture.

You can avoid all these risks by using a candle snuffer – the safest way to extinguish the flame.

Advise customers to keep a candle snuffer close to the place where they use candles in their home.



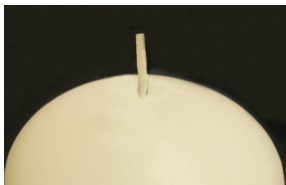
Block candles



The safety distance for block candles is 7 cm.



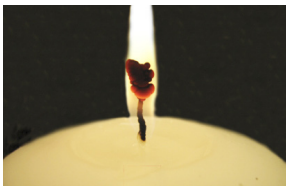
Good to know about block candles:



You should cut the wick to about 1 cm long before lighting the candle. Make sure the wick is standing upright when you light it.



When the candle is burning, the wick should curve. Make sure the candle is in a ventilated room, but without drafts. Drafts will disturb the flame and cause soot.

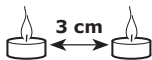


The wick can develop a carbon lump if it stands upright in the flame.



Keep the edges of your block candle trimmed to prevent the candle from dripping and sooting.

Tealights



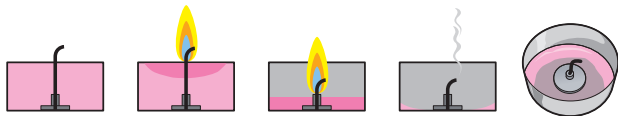
The safety distance for tealights is 3 cm.

Good to know about tealights:

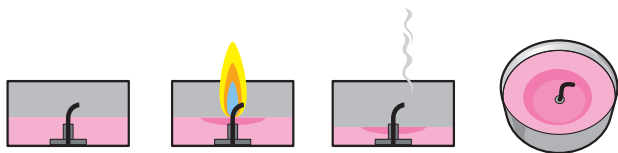
- In our tealights, the wick holder is glued to the bottom of the container. This is a safety precaution. It prevents the wick moving to the side and overheating the candle.
- If you extinguish a tealight when half the wax is left, it might be difficult to relight the candle since not enough wax can be melted to reach the wick from underneath.



The material and design of the tealight holder you use can affect the way the tealight burns. The metal holder, shown on the right here, cools the outside of the tealight and solidifies the wax at the edges. This doesn't happen with the glass container shown to the left. Both are equally safe to use.

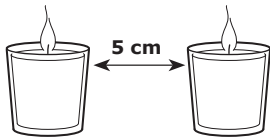


How a tealight works in normal conditions.



It may be difficult to relight a used tealight if the wax is too low since not enough wax can be melted to reach the wick from underneath.

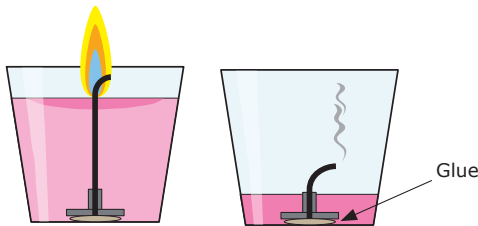
Container candles



Safety distance container candles is 5 cm.

Good to know about container candles:

- You may notice there is a little wax left in the cup when the candle has burnt out. For safety reasons, this type of candle is designed to stop burning when there is a little wax left in the container to prevent overheating and breakage. This is done by gluing the wick holder to the centre of the glass and sealing it from underneath so the candle stops burning when the level of wax reaches the neck of the metal holder.





More interesting stuff about candles

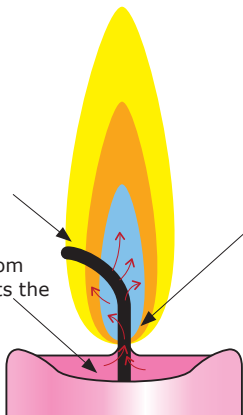
How candles burn

1. The wick is ignited.

2. The heat from the flame melts the wax.

3. The melted wax is absorbed by the wick and burns in the flame.

4. When not enough melted wax is left to supply fuel to the flame, the candle will extinguish.



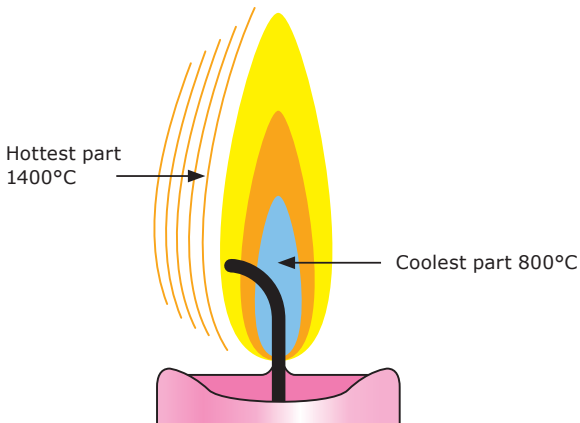
Did you know...

What's actually burning?

- People often assume it is the wick that burns, but in fact it only acts as a “straw” for the fuel and it is even treated so that it will not burn.

Which is the hottest part of the flame?

- Contrary to what many people think, it is not the blue part of the flame, but the part outside the yellow area. At this area the temperature reach 1400 degrees C and temperature is hot enough for the wick to burn off. This is also the reason why the wick is designed to curve sideways; it will trim itself and keep burning correctly.



Your safety and merchandising checklist:

- ☐ Are all candles in functional solutions shown with a candle holder or lantern?
- ☐ Is the right candle shown in the right candle holder or lantern?
- ☐ Does the candle stand straight?
- ☐ Are the safety distances between the candles correct?
- ☐ Are all candles at least 30 cm away from anything that can catch fire?
- ☐ Is there at least 50 cm of free space above the candles?
- ☐ Check there are no candles shown in bookcases.
- ☐ Are all the wicks on candles used as display sample cut off?
- ☐ Are all candle holders in the showroom displayed with a candle?
- ☐ Are the hanging lanterns safe to hang and are they hanging by a fire-proof string?
- ☐ Are you showing only lanterns that are recommended for outdoor use along with the outdoor range?
- ☐ Is the candle symbol poster visible in the candle shop?

To learn more about IKEA candles, go to the HFB16 Decoration pages in IKEA Toolbox.

