

Candles, incense and oil burners

STAYING SAFE IN YOUR HOME



cfa.vic.gov.au

Candles, incense and oil burners are often used to scent homes, as well as for cultural or social purposes. Although a regular part of life, they can start fires, and need to be used carefully.

How to prevent fires starting in your home

If you have candles, incense or oil burners in your home, it's important to use them safely. Follow these simple tips for the best chance of preventing a fire in your home:

- Don't leave candles, incense and oil burners unattended.
- Put candles, incense and oil burners out before leaving home or going to sleep.
- Keep things that can easily burn, including curtains, at least one metre away.
- Don't use them when there is a breeze or a draft in the area.
- Don't put them on unstable or cluttered surfaces.
- Keep lighters, matches, candles, incense and oil burners away from children.
- Don't leave children alone in a room with an open flame.
- Don't move candles, incense or oil burners when they are alight. They can cause serious burns, even after they've just been put out.
- Keep your hair and any loose clothing away from flames.
- Think about using battery-operated candles or electric scent diffusers instead.

Candles

Candles are often left to burn when people aren't watching, put on unstable surfaces or too close to objects that might catch fire. It's important to use them safely and put them out properly.

- Keep candles at least one metre away from curtains and other objects that can catch fire.
- Don't burn candles for long periods of time.
- Don't use them if there is a strong breeze that could knock them over or blow something onto them.
- Never touch or move a lit candle or one that's recently been put out. The flame and the hot, melted wax can cause serious burns, especially for young children and older people.
- Always use a proper candle holder. They should be heat resistant, stable and large enough to catch and contain any drips or melted wax.
- Don't use candles if there is medical oxygen in the home.

Medical oxygen can make fires start more easily and burn faster.

People who use medical oxygen could have health conditions that make it harder for them to notice a fire has started, and slower to respond.



Make a safer choice

Want to set the scene at your next dinner party and stay safe? Choose candles in glass jars rather than candle sticks for your table. The glass jar protects objects from the flame and contains the melted wax.

Candle sticks can be knocked over easily and people can accidentally catch their clothing or hair on fire when reaching across the table.



Incense and oil burners

Incense and oil burners can be just as dangerous as candles in the home. Make sure you don't leave them burning without anyone around, or in enclosed spaces. Here are our tips for using incense and oil burners safely in the home:

- Don't let an oil burner go dry. If you need to top it up, use hot water.
- Don't touch or move an oil burner when it's hot.
- Make sure there is enough space around incense or oil burners for air to move freely. Don't burn incense inside closets or other small enclosed spaces.
- Avoid open windows or strong breezes nearby so they don't get knocked over.

For more information on home fire safety visit www.cfa.vic.gov.au/homefire