



City of Santa Barbara
Fire Prevention Bureau
Use of Candles and Open Flame Decorative Devices
2019 California Fire Code as adopted by Ordinance #5920

SCOPE: To provide a guide for the use of candles or an open flame in an assembly area. If the event is to be held in a tent or canopy, a Tent Permit may also be required. **THIS IS NOT A PERMIT.** This is a guideline designed to ensure maximum fire safety when using candles. Candle permits are issued by the Santa Barbara City Fire Department Fire Prevention Bureau on a case by case basis.

1. PERMIT SUBMITTAL PROCESS

Candle permit submittals shall include:

- A. Current permit fee
- B. Completed Permit Application including:
 - 1) A description of the event or ceremony
 - 2) A floor plan of the area

2. GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

- A. Class I and II flammable liquids and liquefied petroleum gases shall not be used.
- B. All devices or holders shall be constructed to prevent the spilling of liquid fuel or wax at the rate of more than ¼ teaspoon per minute if tipped over.
- C. Liquid or solid fuel devices (such as wax) containing more than 8 ounces must self-extinguish if tipped over.
- D. The device or holder shall be designed so that it will return to the upright position after being tilted to an angle of 45 degrees from vertical.

Exception: Units that self-extinguish if tipped over and do not spill fuel or wax at the rate of more than ¼ teaspoon per minute if tipped over.

- E. The flame shall be enclosed, except as follows:
 - 1) Openings on the sides shall not be more than 3/8 inch in diameter.
 - 2) Openings on the top and the distance to top shall be such that a single layer of tissue paper placed on the top will not ignite in 10 seconds.
- F. Chimneys shall be made of noncombustible materials. Such chimneys shall be securely attached to the device.

Exception: The chimney need not be attached to any device that will self-extinguish if tipped over.

- G. Fuel canisters shall be safely sealed for storage.
- H. Storage and handling of combustible liquid shall be in accordance with Chapter 3 of the California Fire Code.
- I. Shades, if used, shall be made of non-combustible materials and securely attached to the device, holder or chimney.

3. CANDLES USED IN CONNECTION WITH CEREMONIES

- J. Candles used in churches, lodge halls and similar places shall be limited to areas out of the reach or way of the occupants using the area.
- K. Candelabras with lighted candles shall be securely fastened in place so that they cannot tip over. They shall be located away from possible contact of drapes, curtains or other combustibles.
- L. Candelabras shall be high enough that clothing does not come in contact with the flame.
- M. When, in the opinion of the *Fire Code Official*, adequate safeguards have been taken; participants in religious ceremonies are allowed to carry hand-held candles. Hand-held candles shall not be passed from one person to another while lighted.