



CODE SUMMARY

CANDLES

A code summary is a compilation of code sections related to a specific topic and does not contain any interpretations or District standards. This code summary lists sections of code pertaining to Candles and puts them into simple, easy to understand language. The bold headings are intended to be straightforward and uncomplicated. Under each heading you will find the correlating code language and the reference cited. Please feel free to direct any questions to the Community Risk Reduction Division.

1. A permit is required to use candles in any assembly occupancy of more than 49 people and in any dining and/or drinking establishment.

An operational permit is required to use open flames or candles in connection with assembly areas, dining areas of restaurants or drinking establishments. (California Fire Code 105.5.38)

2. If a candle has more than 8 ounces of wax or liquid fuel it must self-extinguish when tipped over and cannot leak more than ¼ teaspoon of wax or fuel per minute.

Liquid- or solid-fueled lighting devices containing more than 8 ounces of fuel must self-extinguish and not leak fuel at a rate of more than 0.25 teaspoon per minute if tipped over. (California Fire Code 308.3.1 (2))

3. Candle holders must be constructed to prevent spilling more than ¼ teaspoon of wax or liquid fuel per minute when holder is tipped over.

The device or holder shall be constructed to prevent the spillage of liquid fuel or wax at the rate of more than 0.25 teaspoon per minute when the device or holder is not in an upright position. (California Fire Code 308.3.1 (3))

4. Candle holders should return to their upright position after being tilted at a 45-degree angle. If the device self-extinguishes when tipped over and doesn't spill more than ¼ teaspoon of fuel or wax it does not have to pass the tilt test.

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: Devices that self-extinguish if tipped over and do not spill fuel or wax at the rate of more than 0.25 teaspoon per minute if tipped over. (California Fire Code 308.3.1 (4))

5. Flames of candles must be enclosed with the exception of openings on top and openings on the side that are not larger than 0.375 of an inch in diameter. The opening at the top must be at a distance that would allow a piece of tissue to be placed on the holder while the candle is lit and not catch flame in 10 seconds.

The flame shall be enclosed except where openings on the side are not more than 0.375-inch diameter or where openings are on the top and the distance to the top is such that a piece of tissue paper placed on the top will not ignite in 10 seconds. (California Fire Code 308.3.1 (5))

- 6. If a decorative chimney is used on a candle, it must be made of a material that won't burn and be securely attached to the candle if the candle doesn't self-extinguish when tipped over.**

Chimneys shall be made of noncombustible materials and securely attached to the open-flame device.

Exception: A chimney is not required to be attached to any open-flame device that will self-extinguish if the device is tipped over. (California Fire Code 308.3.1 (6))

- 7. Any liquid fuel canisters used for candles must be sealed and stored in an area away from any heat or flame sources.**

Fuel canisters shall be safely sealed for storage. (California Fire Code 308.3.1 (7))

- 8. If a decorative shade is used on the candle, it must be made of a material that won't burn and be securely attached to the candle.**

Shades, where used, shall be made of noncombustible materials and securely attached to the open-flame device holder or chimney. (California Fire Code 308.3.1 (9))

- 9. If candelabras must be used, they must be securely fastened so they can't be tipped over and they have to be placed in an area away from occupants and any materials that might burn. The above flame protection and fuel spill requirements would not apply to candelabras.**

Candelabras with flame-lighted candles shall be securely fastened in place to prevent overturning, and shall be located away from occupants using the area and away from possible contact with drapes, curtains or other combustibles. (California Fire Code 308.3.1 (10))

- 10. Handheld candles cannot be used for any reason.**

Under no circumstances shall handheld open flame devices such as exposed candles be permitted for any purpose in any occupancy within the scope of California Code of Regulations, Title 19, Division 1 regulations. (California Code of Regulations, Title 19, Division 1, Section 3.25 (b))