



**GREATER
MANCHESTER**
FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE

Candles and Fire Safety



Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue Service provides home fire safety advice to keep you safe at home.

If you are concerned about your fire safety, or the fire safety of others, please visit our website below to complete our online assessment for personalised advice or to find out if you are eligible for a Home Fire Safety Assessment.

manchesterfire.gov.uk

Lots of people use candles to scent or brighten up their home, or as a symbol during religious festivals. However, if you don't take care, they can cause serious fires.

It's safer to use battery operated/LED candles, but if you're using wax candles you can reduce the risk of fire by following our advice:

- ✓ Keep matches and lighters out of reach of children.
- ✓ Burn all candles well out of reach of children and pets.
- ✓ Extra care should be taken around candles if you are wearing a fancy dress costume.
- ✓ Make sure the candle is standing up straight and is firmly fixed in a proper holder, so it can't fall over.
- ✓ Always place candles on a heat resistant surface. Tea lights get very hot and can melt plastic surfaces, including baths and televisions.
- ✓ If your candle is part of a table decoration, take extra care and do not let the candle burn down.
- ✓ Some scented candles turn to liquid to help release their fragrance - so always burn them in a suitable glass or metal container that will not allow the liquid to leak and can withstand the heat from it.



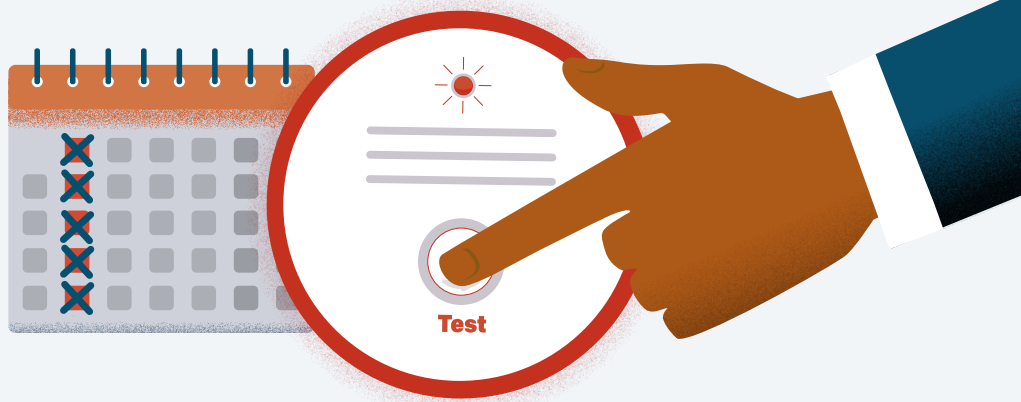
- ✓ Keep candles out of draughts and away from fabrics, such as blowing curtains, and other sources of heat or direct sunlight.
- ✓ Always remember to extinguish candles before leaving the room, before they burn into holders, or before you go to bed.
- ✓ Always put candles out before you move them - using a 'snuffer' or a spoon is safer than blowing them out, which can send sparks and hot wax flying.
- ✓ Consider an extra smoke alarm in the rooms where you burn candles.
- ✓ Avoid burning candles close together, as this might cause the flame to flare.

- ✗ Never leave a lit candle unattended.
- ✗ Never lean across a candle – you could set your hair or clothes on fire.
- ✗ Never use candles, including tea lights, to heat your home.
- ✗ Never place candles under shelves or other surfaces.
- ✗ Never use outdoor candles indoors.
- ✗ Never play with candles.



Enjoy yourself – but remember, candles can cause fires.

Fit a smoke alarm on every level of your home and a heat alarm in your kitchen. Test your alarms weekly.



A working smoke alarm can buy you valuable time to:



Get out



Stay out



Call 999

Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue Service

Saving lives, protecting communities, working together

manchesterfire.gov.uk | [@manchesterfire](https://www.instagram.com/manchesterfire)    

If you do not have access to the internet, call **0800 555 815**