

Candle Making Guidelines

Age Groups:

Beginner: Ages 7-11

Junior: Ages 12-15

Senior: 16-19

Beginners should learn simple techniques of making candles and learn the many safety issues of working with hot wax. Participants must complete one (1) *large candle.

Project suggestions:

First year – simple poured or ice candle

Second year – sand candle or molded candle

Third year – any type of candle different than the year before... use your imagination and make a creation!

Intermediates should gain more skills of making candles than learned during the beginner years. Use creative ideas and try new techniques. Participants must complete one (1) *small and (1) *large candle.

Seniors should know how to use the various candle making techniques. They should also be able to share the acquired knowledge with others. Participants are required to make three (3) candles using at least two (2) different techniques.

***Item Size**

Small = less than five (5) inches in height or length (example: banana split)

Large = over five (5) inches in height or length

Materials Needed: Materials you may need depends on the type of candle you plan to make; there are also candle kits available in many hobby stores that will include everything you will need for that particular candle. Otherwise: wax, wicks, coloring material, stearine flakes for hardening, appropriate container, old newspapers, double boiler, crayons, Styrofoam cups, popsicle sticks, small washers or wick holders, large container for water, scent if desired, and felt if you wish to put it on the bottom of your candle.

Wick Types: Wick types include zinc core, paper core, CD series, ECO series, HTP series, LX series and wooden.

Wax Types: The most common types of wax that are used to make candles are paraffin wax, beeswax, and soy wax. Other popular types are coconut wax, palm wax, and canola wax.

Types of Candles: Types of candles include ice candles, molded candles, water candles, carved candles, sand candles, beeswax candles, and granulated wax candles.

Notes:

- Always melt wax in a double boiler system.
- Always have adult supervision when making candles.
- Make sure wax is cooled before beginning to form. **Never play with hot wax.**
- Cut wicks for candles about two (2) inches longer than the height of the container to be used.
- Dip the wick in hot wax, stretch the wick, attach the sinker, place it in the center of the container, and wrap the extra wick around a stick and let cool so it will stay in place when pouring the hot wax.
- An old nylon stocking over you hand works nicely to clean & polish the outside of your candle.

- All candles must be handmade items. Store-bought candles placed in decorative containers **are not** considered candle-making projects.

Iced Candles Directions: Prepare a wick and the crushed ice (not too small) and place them in an appropriate container such as an orange juice container that peels away. Stir together ½ teaspoon stearine flakes and hot wax in appropriate cup (example: one that can be thrown away but will not melt when hot wax is poured into it). Pour this hot wax mixture over the ice in the prepared container. Let stand overnight. After carefully removing the container, be sure to polish and remove all the streaks from the outside of the candle.

Poured and Molded Candle Directions: Prepare an appropriate container. Any type of container is okay (examples: any type of mold, or dish such as an ice cream float glass, soda glass, or banana split dish). Molds may be metal, plastic, or rubber. After carefully removing the mold, be sure to clean and polish the outside of the candle.

Sand Candle Directions: You must first wet the sand to be used as your candle mold. Next press and form the sand into the desired shape, making sure that your sand mold will produce a flat bottom on your candle. Place the wick appropriately, making sure it is straight. Pour the hot wax into the sand mold, let cool. Remove all excess sand with a soft brush.

Gothic Water Candle Directions: You will first have to make a short pillar candle. Attach the pillar candle to a lid by melting a little wax and pouring it into the lid. Firmly place the pillar candle into wax and let it harden. Then, take this pillar candle and hold it over a separate container full of cold water, deeper than your pillar candle; start pouring your melted wax onto your pillar as you dunk it into the cold water. Be careful not to pour the hot wax onto your hand. The cold water will instantly harden the wax, creating beautiful water-like scenes on your pillar. Continue to do this until you get the result you'd like. Don't forget, you can add different colored wax for different looks.

Beeswax Candle Directions: While you can melt and pour beeswax candles, you can also make simple "rolled" candles by cutting the wax sheets to the desired height and shape. Place a wick (braided seems the best for beeswax) in the middle and roll the sheets tightly to desired shape. The wax is easiest to work with if it is not very cold. Room temperature usually allows the wax to be worked with easily.

Granulated Wax Candle Directions: Coming in many colors, this wax looks and acts like sand while it is being worked with, so the candle can be done in different ways. You can make a molded candle or one made in a clear glass container where the colors are put in layers like a sand decoration. Either way, the wax must be sealed by using a hot iron or by setting the container in hot water.

Whipped Wax: To make your wax look like whipped cream (which always looks great on top of sundae or soda candle), cool your melted wax until it's opaque and then stir and whip until it looks like whipped cream.

When creating candles, use your imagination. These guidelines will help you as you get started doing this fun craft. Don't be afraid to experiment using new techniques you may find. Just remember, safety first! Have fun.