



CITY OF HOUSTON

Richard W. Galvan
Fire Department Fire Marshal

Fire & Life-Safety Bureau
600 Jefferson Street
Houston, Texas 77002
T.832-394-6900
F.832-394-6686

Use of Candles and Open Flame Decorative Devices

(Ref: City of Houston Fire Code)

I. Open-flame decorative devices: Open-flame decorative devices shall comply with all of the following restrictions: (FC 308.3.2)

1. Class I and Class II liquids and LP-gas shall not be used.
2. Liquid- or solid-fueled lighting devices containing more than 8 ounces (237 ml) of fuel must self-extinguish and not leak fuel at a rate of more than 0.25 teaspoon per minute (1.26 ml per minute) if tipped over.
3. 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 (1.26 ml per minute) when the device or holder is not in an upright position.
4. 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.
4. **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 (1.26 ml per minute) if tipped over.
5. The flame shall be enclosed except where openings on the side are not more than 0.375 inch (9.5 mm) 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.
6. 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.
7. Fuel canisters shall be safely sealed for storage.
8. Storage and handling of combustible liquids shall be in accordance with Fire Code Chapter 34 (Flammable and Combustible Liquids).
9. Shades, where used, shall be made of noncombustible materials and securely attached to the open-flame device holder or chimney.
10. 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.

Use of Candles and Open Flame Decorative Devices (Cont.):

II. Location near combustibles: Open flames such as from candles, lanterns, kerosene heaters, and gas-fired heaters shall not be located on or near decorative material or similar combustible materials. (FC 308.3.3)

III. Aisles and exits: Candles shall be prohibited in areas where occupants stand, or in an aisle or exit. (FC 308.3.4)

IV. Permit required: 1) A person shall not utilize or allow to be utilized an open flame (candle) in connection with a public meeting or gathering for the purpose of deliberations, worship, entertainment, amusement, instruction, education, recreation, awaiting transportation or similar purpose in assembly or educational occupancies. 2) A fire department permit is required to use open flames or candles in connection with assembly areas, dining areas of restaurants or drinking establishments. (FC 105.6.32) (FC 308.3)

**R. W. Galvan
Fire Marshal**