

### Lighter safety tips

For the safety of your children and your home:

- always keep lighters and matches out of the reach of children;
- store lighters away from heat or direct sunlight;
- do not leave lighters exposed to the sun in parked cars;
- do not tamper with or remove child resistant mechanisms on lighters; and
- dispose of faulty lighters.

### Your lighter may be faulty if:

- the child resistant mechanism is missing or doesn't work;
- flames flare up or splutter;
- a flame does not extinguish after use;
- it leaks fuel;
- the casing is cracked or components come off; or
- there is no safety warning on the product or packaging.

Colourful candles and lighters may look attractive to children, but they are not toys

To help prevent accidents:

- keep lighters and matches out of the reach of children; and
- never leave children unattended with candles, lighters or matches

### For product safety advice contact:

Department of Commerce  
Consumer Protection Advice Line 1300 30 40 54  
(for the cost of a local call statewide)  
8.30am – 5.00pm weekdays

Department of Commerce  
Forrest Centre  
219 St Georges Terrace  
Perth, Western Australia 6000  
Locked Bag 14, Cloisters Square, Western Australia 6850

Administration: (08) 9282 0777  
Fax: (08) 9282 0850  
National Relay Service: 13 36 77  
Website: [www.commerce.wa.gov.au](http://www.commerce.wa.gov.au)  
Email: [consumer@commerce.wa.gov.au](mailto:consumer@commerce.wa.gov.au)

Great Southern (08) 9842 8366  
South-West (08) 9722 2888  
Mid-West (08) 9964 5644  
Goldfields/Esperance (08) 9026 3250  
North-West (08) 9185 0900  
Kimberley (08) 9169 2811

### For fire safety and prevention advice contact:

Fire and Emergency Services Authority  
480 Hay Street  
Perth Western Australia 6000  
Phone: 9323 9300 or 1800 199 084  
Facsimile: 9323 9495  
Internet: [www.fesa.wa.gov.au](http://www.fesa.wa.gov.au)  
Email: [fesa@fesa.wa.gov.au](mailto:fesa@fesa.wa.gov.au)

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# candles and lighters

## SAFETY FOR KIDS in the home



Department of  
Commerce

FESA  
FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES  
AUTHORITY OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA





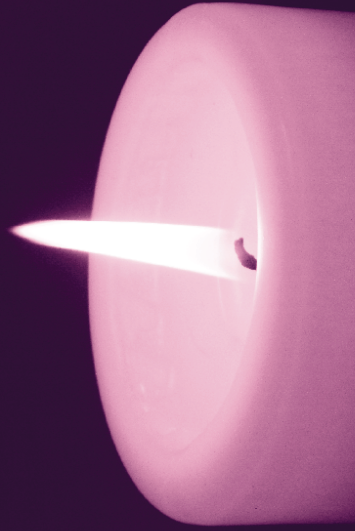
## Candles

Candles can create mood and atmosphere in your home. However, if used without proper caution, they can potentially:

- cause a house fire;
- burn down and ignite the furniture, fittings or appliances on which they are standing;
- ignite nearby objects such as curtains and clothing.

Candles cause approximately 50 house fires in Western Australia each year. The damage to human life and property caused by house fires is devastating.

You can help reduce the risk of house fires by using candles safely.



## Tips on how to enjoy candles safely

- Never leave a burning candle unattended, or in the care of a child.
- Always extinguish candles before going to sleep.
- Choose candles carefully. Ensure there is no material in or around the candle that could catch alight.
- Remove all wrapping and packaging from candles before lighting them.
- Keep candles and matches out of the reach of children.
- Place lit candles in draft free areas, away from open windows, curtains and blinds.
- Position candles away from flammable gases or liquids.
- Make sure candles are placed on stable, uncluttered surfaces that are resistant to heat.
- Use a candleholder or stand to keep heat away from furniture surfaces and to catch all melting wax.
- Avoid moving a candle that is alight. Liquid candle wax can cause severe burns.

## Lighters are not for children

Children are naturally inquisitive and want to investigate everything they touch. Young children may think some lighters are toys because of their colourful designs and shapes.

Many children under five years have suffered from burns that require hospital treatment, as a result of playing with lighters.

All lighters can be dangerous in the hands of children and should be kept out of their reach.

### Laws for lighters

In 1997, strict requirements for performance safety and child resistant mechanisms were introduced in Western Australia regarding disposable cigarette lighters, novelty and low cost refillable lighters.

These lighters are required by law to have effective safety and child resistant mechanisms so that children under five years of age cannot operate them.

If you suspect that you have a disposable or low cost refillable lighter that does not have child resistant mechanisms, please contact the Department of Commerce on 1300 30 40 54.

- Throw candles away before they burn to the base.
  - Only use candlesticks or candleholders that will not ignite or melt.
- If you believe a candle you are using is unsafe, or is burning in a way that may cause a fire, extinguish it.

