

Beeswax Candles

Candles, one of the earliest sources of light, have played a crucial role in history. Without the precious flame to extend the daylight hours well into the night and to illuminate the halls of humanity, doctrines might not have been written, physicists on the brink of discovery might have befuddled their formulas in the dark and entertainment would have stopped at sunset. Evidence of candles, or a similar illuminating devices like torches and fire baskets, dates back to as early as 3000 BC.

Over the centuries, candles have adorned the walls of rulers, played integral roles in religious ceremonies and lit streets and shops. Candles have even been used to keep time: In coal mines, less than half a century ago, candles marked with 12 lines--one for each hour---burned steadily to record work shifts.

Beeswax was one of the first ingredients used for making candles; recognized since ancient Roman times---and subsequently by many other civilizations--for its effective aromatic burning properties. (Beeswax burns very slowly and smells deliciously sweet.) The prohibitive cost of beeswax, though, greatly limited its use and availability; it became exclusively reserved for the wealthy and the Church. In thirteenth century England, beeswax became such a valuable and negotiable commodity that The English Tallow Chandlers and The Worshipful Company of Wax Chandlers were chartered to regulate and control the beeswax trade. Laws preventing the adulteration of the wax were passed and the penalties for breaking them quite stiff. (Catherine Bardey, *Making Candles & Potpourri*)

In the mid 1800's paraffin, a by-product of crude oil was discovered. Most paraffin waxes burn at a lower temperature than beeswax and are used for most mass produced candles that are sold today. (Check out *Beeswax VS. Paraffin* below)

Beeswax is made from the nectar of flowers! The honeybees produce beeswax from wax glands on the sides of their body and use it to create "cells" to store their honey in. Its color is white when first made. It will vary from white to yellow, by the flower and pollen sources that the bees make their honey from. It possesses a subtle aroma, the fragrance of honey ingrained with the other scents present in a bee hive. The demand for beeswax exceeds the supply in most years. For this reason, it is expensive. On the average, eight pounds of honey are consumed by the bees for each pound of wax made by the colony. A large amount of the available beeswax is used in cosmetics and in many waxes and polishes.

We at Beelite Candles & Wax use only 100% natural beeswax and all cotton wicks in our Candles. We render beeswax for other beekeepers. Most of the wax we use

comes from the North East, United States. Our wax that we use in our candles has been refined by filtration (No Chemical Bleaching).

What is Bloom:

Beeswax will naturally form a dusty coating over time called Bloom. Bloom, as it is referred to, rises to the surface of a candle when some of the low melting point components of the wax migrate to the surface of the candle. The colder the temperature is (in the environment), the bloom will appear faster (for example at 32 degrees it will appear within 24 hours). The bloom is easily removed by wiping the candle with a soft cloth or, if there is a lot of detail in the candle, use a hair dryer for about 15 seconds , you can also run the candle under warm water (but not too hot).

Burning Properties:

Beeswax candles are naturally drip-less and smokeless. Beeswax candles tend to have a longer burn-time than candles made from other substances. Under certain conditions, even beeswax candles may be caused to drip. The most common is a draft blowing on the flame. All candles should be burned out of a draft. Drafts cut down on burn-time.

Candle Burning Notes: Burning Pillar Candles & Tapers

The candle wick in a candle is constantly feeding fuel (the wax) to the flame and a pool of wax is created around it due to the heat. The size of this wax pool can vary due to wick size, ambient air temperature, thickness of candle, how long it has been burning and other variables.

While a taper will rarely leak on the sides, pillar candles need more attention. Some will burn forever, some need to be "hugged" (folding some of the wax along the edge in closer to the wick), and some can only be burned for a few hours or they may leak over the side causing a mess and impairing the looks of a decorative candle. Some decorative candles should only be burned for a short period of time since they are designed more for artistic reasons than to produce light for an extended period of time. Always use caution when burning candles to prevent fires!

All candles must have proper holders. Candles that are not held vertical and stable may burn on one side only or drip wax. All pillars should be in a container to prevent wax damage.

Occasionally when extinguishing a candle, the wick will burn down slightly making it more difficult when you wish to re-light it. Scraping the wax slightly around the base of the wick (digging a small 1/4 inch hole) will make re-lighting the candle easier if there is a problem.

More Tips:

- Burn your pillar candle one hour for every inch of its diameter the first time you light it. This will allow the pool of wax to extend to the outside rim and prevent your candle from forming a "Tunnel" in the center.
- Burning your candle this way will also set its memory. Each time you re-light the candle it will "remember" to burn out to the rim.
- Trim the wick of any candle— canister candle, pillar, taper, tea light or votive—to one-quarter inch every time you light the candle. This will ensure clean, smoke-free burning. Be sure to remove any wick debris that has fallen into the candle.
- The most effective way to extinguish the flame of a candle is to use a candlesnuffer. The snuffer helps prevent the wax from spraying, and keeps the wick centered as well

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Benefits of Beeswax vs. Paraffin

Pure Beeswax is one of nature's most perfect products. Prized since ancient times, fragrant beeswax candles burn longer and cleaner than ordinary wax candles. In fact, pure beeswax has the highest melting point of any known wax. Its slow, smokeless flame gives off more light and heat than other waxes and there's no dripping. Made by industrious honey bees from the nectar of flowers, beeswax has a sweet, natural fragrance all its own. It might surprise you to know that paraffin is basically the grayish left over sludge produced by petroleum refineries. This paraffin residue is bleached with toxic chemicals and then used to mass produce your average candle. Paraffin waxes contain aromatic compounds which are released when a candle is burned. These compounds have been proven to be carcinogenic. As paraffin wax burns it creates a black soot that coats your walls ceilings and lungs.

This petro-soot is as harmful as second-hand tobacco smoke. Many paraffin candles are made with wicks that contain lead or zinc, which, when burned pose yet another health hazard. Rest assured, we at Beelite Candles & Wax use only pure cotton braided wicks. It turns out that some paraffin candles emit such hazardous pollutants as acetone, benzene and lead. These harmful substances impair the quality of indoor air. Beeswax candles burn cleaner and drips less than those made with paraffin wax (the fumes of which have also caused kidney and bladder tumors in laboratory animals). If you have noticed sooty deposits in your house, paraffin wax candles may be at fault. Initially beeswax candles may seem to be more expensive than paraffin candles yet this is not so. Paraffin wax burns away much quicker than beeswax nullifying any price disparity.

Negative Ion Emitter

Beeswax is the only fuel to emit (Negative Ions) when burning. Dust, hair, odors and other things floating in the air are doing so because the particles are positively charged. Allergens and toxins become positively charged through static electricity created by heating systems and friction caused by normal activity (such as when you walk across the carpet). Pure beeswax candles help rid your home of toxins by emitting negatively charged ions as well as burning away positively charged particles that float toward the burning halo flame. This process cleans the air of positive ions such as dust, odors, toxins, pollen, mold, dust mites feces, and viruses. This has been proven to be beneficial for people who have allergies, and environmental sensitivities. Our own children is proof of this. All four of them have been diagnosed with asthma . We burn our candles a lot and it has never bothered them. Our youngest was a preemie and her lungs were weak. She has never had a problem when we burn the beeswax candles. We only use 100% beeswax in our Candles.