

## Candle Making Guidelines

### **Age groups:**

*Beginner* – ages 11 and younger

*Intermediate* – ages 12-13

*Senior* – ages 14 and up

**Beginner:** Should learn simple techniques of making candles and learn the many safety issues of working with hot wax. If projects will be made for display during the Cass County Fair, participants must complete one (1) \*large item.

Project suggestions:

First year – a 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!

**Intermediate:** Should gain more skills of making candles than learned during the beginner years. Use creative ideas and try new techniques. If projects will be made for display during the Cass County Fair, participants must complete one (1) \*small items and one (1) \*large item.

**Senior:** Should know how to use the various candle-making techniques. Senior participants should also be able to share the acquired knowledge with other youth and 4-H members. If projects will be made for display during the Cass County Fair. Participants must complete three (3) items using at least 2 different techniques.

- **Item size** Small = less than five (5) inches in height or length  
(i.e. banana split)  
Large = over five (5) inches in height or length

**Materials needed:** You may need some of the following items depending on what type of candle you plan to make: wax, wicks, coloring, stearine flakes for hardening, appropriate container, old newspapers, double boiler, crayons, Styrofoam cups, Popsicle sticks, small washers or wick holders, large container for water. There are now candle making kits, and candle scents of many types.

**Different types of wicks:** There are both wire and regular string wick material. There is also a separate wick designed for beeswax candles.

**Different types of wax:** Wax can come in different forms including: Candle block wax, paraffin wax used for canning, beeswax by the sheet, granulated wax, and whipped wax (cool wax and then stir and whip until it looks like whipped cream).

**Notes:**

- Always melt wax in a double boiler system
- Always have adult supervision when making candles with double boilers and hot wax.
- 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.
- All candles must be hand-made items.
- Store-bought candles placed in decorative containers **are not** considered candle-making projects.
- Be sure this is a learning experience.

**Different types of candles:** Ice candles, molded candles, water candles, carved candles, sand candles, beeswax candles, gel candles, and granulated wax candles.

**General materials needed:** Wax, stearin flakes, wick, coloring—either store bought or shaved crayon, scent if desired. Felt can be placed on the bottom of most candles for display purposes.

### **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 can or container that peels away. Stir together ½ teaspoon stearine flakes and hot wax in a Styrofoam cup. Pour this hot wax over the ice in the prepared container. Let stand overnight. After carefully removing the container, be sure to polish or remove all the streaks from the outside of the candle. An old nylon stocking over your hand works nicely for this.

### **Poured and Molded Candles**

**Directions:** Prepare an appropriate container. Any type of container is O.K. and items used in the past have included any type of mold or dish such as, ice cream float glass, soda glass, or a banana split dish. Molds may be plastic or rubber — after removing the mold, be sure to clean and polish the outside of the candle. An old nylon stocking over your hand works nicely for this.

### **Sand Candles**

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

### **Water candle**

**Directions:** These candles are made by pouring hot wax onto a candle, which is placed in a large container of water. These candles form many interesting and unique shapes.

### **Beeswax candle**

**Directions:** These relatively simple candles are made by cutting the wax sheets to the desired shape, placing a wick in the middle and rolling the wax sheets into many different shapes and sizes. The wax is easiest to work with if it is not very cold. Room temperature usually allows the wax to be worked with easily enough.

### **Granulated wax candles**

**Directions:** You will need a container in which to place the wax grains. This wax looks and acts like sand while it is being worked with. It comes in many colors and has its own type of wick. These types of candle can be done in different ways. It can either be used in making molds, or can be used in a clear glass container where the colored grains are visible. (This can be done 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.

**HAVE FUN!!!**