

NOBLESVILLE FIRE DEPARTMENT



CODE ENFORCEMENT DIVISION

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Candles and Open Flame Devices

Candles and other open flame devices are a serious fire safety risk, and the 2008 Indiana Fire Code places restrictions on the use of these devices to ensure they are used in a way that will minimize the risk of injury or fire. Some activities are expressly prohibited, while other activities are regulated to ensure they are used safely. Open flame devices include, but are not limited to, candles, cigarettes, cooking devices, torches, open-flame heaters, and flaming food and beverage preparation. Please see the related Code Information Sheet “Cooking and Outdoor Activities in Multi-Family Dwellings”.

General Guidelines:

- Open flame devices shall not be used in areas where highly flammable, combustible, or explosive materials are used or stored. (InFC 308.2)
- Open flame devices used in a public meeting or gathering in an assembly (theaters, restaurants, churches, etc.) or educational (school) occupancy must first notify the fire department having jurisdiction. (InFC 308.3)
- Must not be located near decorative or combustible materials. (InFC 308.3.3)

Candles: (InFC 308.3.2)

- Must self-extinguish if tipped over, and not leak fuel or wax at the rate of more than 0.25 teaspoon/minute when tipped over.
- Flames must be enclosed or not ignite a piece of tissue paper placed on top of the open chimney within 10 seconds.
- Must be securely supported on noncombustible bases or tables. (InFC 308.3.7)
- Not located in areas where occupants stand, or in aisles or exits. (InFC 308.3.4)
- When approved safeguards are taken, candles may be carried for religious ceremonies, however, the candles may not be passed from one person to another while lighted. (InFC 308.3.5)
- Candles and other flame devices are not permitted in dormitories. (InFC 308.3.8)

Flaming Food and Beverage Preparation: (InFC 308.6)

- Flammable or combustible liquids must be dispensed from a 1 ounce container, or a container not exceeding 1 quart that will limit the flow to a 1 ounce serving.
- Must be done in a safe manner that will not produce high flames.
- Must be prepared in the vicinity of the table being served, and not be transported while burning.
- A wet cloth towel shall be immediately available for smothering flames in the event of an emergency.

Disclaimer: This may not be a complete list of all code sections involving this subject, and is not the actual code that regulates this subject. Please reference the adopted codes in the state of Indiana (<http://www.in.gov/dhs/2490.htm>) for complete information.