



## National Candle Association

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **Candles Are Dramatic, Affordable Favorites For Holiday Decorating and Entertaining**

‘Tis the season to be jolly... and frugal. If you’re like most Americans, you’re planning to spend less and make more of simple holiday pleasures and traditions.

Fortunately, candles offer a perfect solution for creating a welcoming home and holiday atmosphere with minimal expense. There are dozens of decorative and affordable ways that candles can brighten a home and infuse your personal style into holiday festivities.

This year the emphasis is on celebrating the traditions and harmony of the season. Red and green are at the heart of the decorating palette, offset by lots of white. Deep crimsons and forest greens are popular for traditional settings, while lighter and brighter reds and greens seem perfect for contemporary and casual decors. Metallic silvers and golds – often in the form of decorative swirls, patterns or added texture – add an artisan touch as well as shimmer and sparkle.

Scented candles remain the top choice for infusing the home with an unmistakable holiday ambiance. This year’s favored fragrances are based on traditional yuletide scents – berry, cinnamon and evergreen – highlighted by sophisticated notes of pear, apple, ginger, currant, mocha and vanilla.

#### **Set the Scene with Candles**

Create a festive note of welcome in the entry hall or foyer with a large white or red pillar on a footed hurricane with berried holly leaves nestled around the base. Artificial snow is another way to bring a soft glisten to the candle arrangements instead of foliage.

Mantels are typically the focus of most holiday décor arrangements. They’re the perfect spot for groupings of tapers or pillars in metallic candlesticks of varying height, surrounded by a sweep of evergreen boughs. Consider using red or white candles to offset the foliage, along with hand-blown or patterned ornaments for additional color, sparkle and focal interest.

Holiday meals – from informal family get-togethers to formal dinner parties – are at the heart of most holiday celebrations and the natural setting for candles. Dinner table arrangements shouldn’t compete with the enjoyment of food or conversation. That means arrangements that

won't block your view of others at the table, and unscented candles that won't vie with the aromas of your meal.

For formal dinners, there's nothing more dramatic or pleasing than a table that sparkles. A simple but elegant centerpiece might incorporate an oblong glass bowl of ornaments, or greenery and pinecones, surrounded by tealights in faceted glass holders and set upon a mirror. Dim the lights, light the candles and allow the faceted glass and mirror reflect the glow of the candlelight for a radiant shimmer.

Buffet tables and casual family meals call for simpler centerpieces. Place a series handsome pillars on a flat ceramic or metal tray flanked by small vases of red carnations or poinsettias for an appealing seasonal tableau. Table runners are a simple way to add visual weight and color to any centerpiece arrangement.

### **Make Your Holidays Safe**

Regardless of how you use candles in decorating your home or celebrating the holidays, the National Candle Association urges all consumers to keep safety in mind when burning candles, and to follow these basic rules of candle fire safety:

- Always keep a burning candle within your sight. Never leave a burning candle unattended.
- Never burn a candle on or near anything that can catch fire. Be especially careful with flammable decorations or placing candles too close to Christmas greenery or Christmas trees.
- Always use a candleholder specifically designed for candle use. The holder should be heat resistant, sturdy and big enough to collect dripping wax. Never place a candle directly on furniture.
- Keep candles out of the reach of children and pets.
- Trim candlewicks to ¼ inch before lighting or re-lighting, and keep the wax-pool free of wick trimmings, dust, matches and debris at all times. Too-long wicks can cause uneven burning, smoking and dripping.
- Never touch or move a votive or container candle when the wax is liquid. The containers can get very hot.
- Always burn candles in a well-ventilated room.
- Never go to sleep or leave the house without first extinguishing all candles.

For more information on candle-fire safety, visit [http://www.candles.org/safety\\_rules.html](http://www.candles.org/safety_rules.html)

