

Where do I start?

Candle making can be fun and profitable. It can also be confusing where to start – so below find some questions to consider and some answers to help guide you.

What kind of wax?

Paraffin or Vegetable?

It is a personal preference although there is a trend towards the more natural. There are a variety of waxes within each category but firstly let us look at a few of the ones we carry at Canwax.

Wax type	Features
Paraffin	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Great scent throw- Takes on colour very well- Can be used for all types of candles- Petroleum based product- Although not renewable – it is a by-product of the petroleum business and a great use for a material that would otherwise end up being disposed
Soy	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Requires more fragrance than paraffin- Hard to colour as the base is opaque creamy coloured- Renewable resource- Hydrogenated product- Longer burning
Coconut/Soy	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- This blended wax has a low melt point- Suitable for containers only- Renewable resource- Hydrogenated product- Needs a bit more fragrance than paraffin- Hard to get dark colours because base is creamy coloured
Beeswax	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Expensive compared to other waxes- 100% natural- Needs to be wicked much higher than other candles
Palm	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- This is not as popular as most waxes as it requires cutting down of trees and depending on the source may not be renewable.

What kind of candles?

Pillars? Containers? Votives? Tealights?

These are the basic kinds. Below we describe them.

Type	Qualities	Wax	Type
Pillars	Free standing. Can be damaged in transit.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Higher melt point wax so it doesn't melt too quickly. - Requires a higher shrink value so it will be easy to release from molds 	Paraffin: 1242 (no additives*) 1260 (no additives) 4625 (additives) Veg: Eco PB, Beeswax, Palm
Containers	In a container made of glass, ceramic or metal. These become easy to transport and can be very decorative.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Lower melt point so it pools nicely in the container. - Low shrinkage needed so it adheres to sides of container and doesn't rattle around. 	Paraffin: 1286 (mottled look) 4627 (one pour) 4786 (additives) Veg: Q210, Eco ADV, Golden 464, Coconut/Soy, Beeswax
Votives	Free standing until you put it in an appropriate votive holder then it should melt out and become a container candle.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Need shrinkage so you can get it out of the mold - Low melt point so it melts quickly 	Paraffin: 1286 (mottled look) 4794 (smooth finish) Veg: Q210, EcoPB, Beeswax, Palm
Tealights	Container candle in metal or plastic holders.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Low melt point/no shrinkage - Use your leftover wax for tealights but wicking will depend on the type of wax 	Paraffin: Any of the waxes, but 4786 is the best Veg: Any will work
Carved Candles	Takes a lot of practice to make these beauties!	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Soft paraffin is required to be able to carve into the wax 	Paraffin: 1239 Veg: Not suitable

*Additives refer to vybar and stearic acid – these help with colour and fragrance

How much wax do I need to make a candle?

This of course depends on what size container or mold you are using. Below are a few ideas on how much wax is used. Please note that we weigh wax.

Tealight	Plastic or Aluminum	- ½ oz of wax per tealight
Votive	Molded	- 2oz
Teacup	China	- 4 – 6oz
Jars	Glass	- If the jar states a volume, you will likely use about 2oz less as you need room for the lid.
Pillar	3 x 4" (round x height)	- 1 lb (16oz)
Misc.	Unknown	- Fill your container with water and note how much you use by weight (hint: volume and weight are the same for water – 16oz in volume weighs 16oz). This will give you a close approximation of how much wax you will need.

What kind of wick do I use – there are so many?

The wicks vary in strength and material. Please look at our wick suggestion chart on our website for ideas. We do recommend the following:

Type of Wax	Container	Pillar
Paraffin	Cotton, Zinc, LX	Bleached Square, Cotton, Zinc
Soy (and Coconut)	HTP, Premier, LX	HTP, LX
Beeswax	HTP	Bleached Square, HTP
Palm	HTP, Premier, LX	Bleached Square, HTP, LX

The most important thing to remember about wicks is that the wider the candle the stronger the wick that is required.

Are fragrances natural?

Fragrance oils are products containing man made fragrance ingredients, chemical compounds and sometimes natural ingredients (not all natural). Please consider this information when labeling your products.

All our fragrances are Paraben free and do not contain any of the Phthalates which are considered harmful.

Can I use Essential Oils?

The quick answer is yes but a lot of experimenting is needed as some are stronger than others. Also, they are not designed for candle making and can evaporate more quickly than a fragrance oil. Generally, we would recommend 15ml per pound as a starting point and build up if more is required.

How much fragrance do I need?

Sometimes it depends on the fragrance. Some are stronger than others. For example, Lavender and Pines tend to be more dominant than say Orange. The amount of fragrance you put in a candle is “the load”. There is a rule of thumb for loading your candles!

Type of Wax	Fragrance Load	How to Calculate
Paraffin	6% 1oz fragrance per 1lb wax	Calculate 6% of your candle weight. Take the total of your wax in ounces and multiply by 0.06. This will give you the fragrance needed in ounces. For example: For a 16oz (1lb) candle we would multiply as follows: 16 x 0.06 = .96 (We round this up to 1oz per lb of wax). If you have 5lbs of wax melting then: 80 oz x 0.06 = 4.8oz (rounded up to 5oz)
Soy/coconut	8-10% 1.2 – 1.5oz of fragrance per 1lb of wax	This can be a bit trickier. Some fragrances do now work very well with soy (for example light citrus fragrances). We have a list of ones we have tried ourselves and would be happy to point you in the right direction. Because soy doesn't burn as hot as paraffin we generally need a little bit more fragrance. Some waxes say you can go to 18% - I only add what I really need to get the fragrance aroma I want. Fragrance can be expensive and you don't want to waste any!
Beeswax	6%	Generally, we don't fragrance beeswax.

What kind of colour do I use?

We have two types.

Liquid	Blocks
Liquid dyes can be very intense in colour but also have an aroma of their own.	The blocks are easier to use when first starting with candles. Although they contain a miniscule amount of paraffin – we feel these are still a good option for all candles. They are also more cost effective when starting up and you want to experiment with colours.

This is just a starting point for you! There are many videos on YouTube that show the methods of making candles. If you have any questions, please send them to info@canwax.com

Thank you!