

# MākerCulture

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## Candle Burning Tips

Keep the wick trimmed to about 5mm, otherwise the flame might not be drawing up enough wax and may not be burning very brightly.

Extinguish the candle by drowning the wick in the melted wax and then pulling it vertical before the wax sets. This keeps the wick coated with wax and helps when lighting the candle the next time.

The burn of the candle is tested in an environment at 22C<sup>0</sup>. At this temperature the candle should melt the wax to within a few mm of the edge. If you are burning it in a room at a lower temperature, less of the wax will melt and you will get tunnelling with more wax left around the edge.

If the candle is burning on a window cill, with one side exposed to a warm room, and the other to the cold outside, the melt will be asymmetrical. Turning the candle periodically will ensure more of the wax gets burnt.

If tunnelling leaves too much wax around the edge, the flame might not be getting enough oxygen so the unburnt wax should be trimmed away allowing air to get to the wick again.

The burn time of a candle is calculated assuming a burn time of no longer than 4 hours at a time. If a candle is left to burn for much longer than this the wax can get too warm and the life of the candle will be reduced. Conversely, too short a burn, every time the candle is lit, can result in tunnelling problems.

