

A Guide for the Proper Care and Use of Church Candles

Candle Followers

Candle followers, also referred to as candle burners or wax savers, are available in all sizes to fit the largest Paschal to the smallest Altar candle. Candles properly fitted with followers will insure maximum burning time, and minimize the potential for problems.

A correct size follower is determined by the diameter of the candle to be used. Your church goods dealer can assist you in selecting the proper sized follower for your Cathedral candles.

A clean, glistening follower looks better and performs better. To remove any accumulated wax from the follower, immerse in warm water and wipe clean with a soft cloth. Use of abrasives may affect the finish of the followers.



Preparing

1. Seat properly sized candle **FIRMLY** and **VERTICALLY STRAIGHT** in the candlestick. Tilted candles may cause irregular burning and dripping.



2. Approximately $\frac{3}{4}$ INCH of **EXPOSED WICK** is recommended for efficient burning. Trim if necessary.

3. A candle follower must be used for the satisfactory and economical performance of your candle. Use only a follower that is the **CORRECT SIZE** for the candle diameter. Before seating a follower on any candle it should be cleaned of all wax both inside and out. To seat the follower place it on the shoulder of the candle giving it a snug $\frac{1}{4}$ turn. Visually inspect follower to insure it is straight on the candle and that a perfect seal has been achieved. A perfect seal is when all edges of the top rim, or shoulder, of the candle are touching the inside of the follower.



4. Before placing candles on the altar, **STRAIGHTEN THE WICK** and pre-condition the candle by burning for at least **TWO MINUTES**.

Lighting

1. Extend lighting taper 1 inch out from candle lighter **BEFORE** lighting.



2. When lighting the candles do not touch candle wick or follower with the lighter. **HANDLE LIGHTER CAREFULLY** to avoid pieces of taper or wick from breaking off and falling into the candle cup. These broken off pieces may act as a second wick, creating a double flame resulting in candle failure.



3. After extinguishing taper flame by retracting into candle lighter tube, **IMMEDIATELY EXTEND TAPER OUT** from tube to avoid wax build-up and jamming. Inspect to insure taper is completely extinguished.



Extinguishing

1. Always use a candle extinguisher to put out candle flame. Never blow out candle. To extinguish, gently place extinguisher over candle follower, being very careful not to touch either the wick or follower. The follower is resting on both liquid and soft wax, tilting it or compressing it with the extinguisher may cause the candle to malfunction the next time it is used.

2. To avoid afterglow always allow a candle to burn at least two minutes before extinguishing. Afterglow may cause a wick to shorten itself making it difficult to relight.

Care While Burning

1. Try not to disturb candles that are performing satisfactorily.
2. Place candles out of the way of drafts. Air flow, from sources such as ceiling fans, heating or air conditioning ducts, or perhaps a sacristy door that was left open, may need to be redirected.
3. Inspect the top, or burning cup of candles weekly to detect conditions that may cause improper burning. This is particularly important with Paschal candles where the burning cup is above eye level and problems might otherwise go undetected.

Conditions to look for:

A Broken portions of wick or foreign objects such as pieces of lighting tapers, matches, or wooden lighting sticks, that have become imbedded in wax **MUST BE REMOVED** to prevent them from acting as a second wick, creating a double flame resulting in candle failure. It may be necessary to recondition the candle head as described below.



B The candle wick has become too long and is perhaps curled over. This accelerates the burning of the candle and may cause the candle to malfunction. Trim the length of the wick back to $\frac{3}{4}$ ". It may be necessary to recondition the candle head as described below.



C If the candle wick is too short it will be difficult to relight. Once lit the flame may not be large enough to allow the candle to perform adequately. It may be necessary to recondition the candle head as described below.

D Large diameter candles must remain lit long enough for the entire top, or burning cup, of the candle to become liquified. In circumstances where a candle does not remain lit for the required length of time, it has a tendency to burn down the center of the candle body causing the candle to malfunction. When this happens it may be necessary to recondition the candle head as described below.



Reconditioning

Using a dull knife remove all debris and or darkened wax from head of candle. Next expose $\frac{3}{4}$ " of good wick being careful not to cut into or damage wick. Finish off by making shoulders of candle symmetrical and level, this is most important to insure the proper reseating of a follower. Continue with step 3 under preparing.



Beeswax candles are not all created equal. The grade of materials and the skill in manufacturing ascertain the quality of performance between one brand and another. At Cathedral Candle Company, established in 1897, beeswax candles are handcrafted with choice imported, pure, natural beeswax that is unequalled and highly favored for its matchless bleaching and burning qualities.

Cathedral Candle Company's continued growth for over 9 decades is built upon an uncompromising dedication to superior candle craftsmanship and outstanding personal service through the finest church goods dealers nationwide. Get to know your nearest Cathedral dealer . . . they know candles. Their years of experience and knowledge is an invaluable source for helpful information about Cathedral beeswax candles and their full line of other church products.