

Candle Making - Risk Assessment

Burns

Hazards: Hot wax; hot containers (jugs/pots); splashes/spills; contact burns.

Who's at risk: Participants, host, venue staff.

Controls:

- Use thermostatically controlled equipment; keep heating area separate from participant tables.
- Keep a clear "hot zone" with no participant access; host-only handling of hot wax.
- Use heat-resistant jugs with handles and stable bases; do not overfill.
- Demonstrate safe pouring (slow, close to container, two hands if needed).

Residual risk: Medium.

Fire Risk

Hazards: Wax and fragrance oils are combustible; hot plates, faulty electrics.

Who's at risk: Everyone.

Controls:

- Keep wax/fragrance oils away from heat sources.
- Use PAT-tested electrical equipment where required; avoid overloading sockets
- Know venue fire exits and assembly point; keep exits clear.
- Have a suitable fire extinguisher available (venue provision) and know location

Residual risk: Low-Medium.

Allergic Reactions

Hazards: Skin irritation/sensitisation; allergic reactions; headaches/nausea from strong scents.

Who's at risk: Participants and host (higher risk for asthma, allergies, pregnancy, sensitive skin).

Controls:

- Use cosmetic-grade candle fragrance oils only
- Offer a fragrance-free option.
- Use droppers/pipettes for dosing; keep bottles closed when not in use.
- Ensure good ventilation.

Residual risk: Medium.

Slips, Trips and Falls

Hazards: Slips from spilled water/oils; trips from bags/boxes underfoot; powder on floors.

Who's at risk: Everyone in the room.

Controls:

- Keep walkways clear; store bags/boxes under tables or in a designated area.
- Use small bottles for liquids; avoid open jugs
- Wipe spills immediately; keep paper towels/wipes and a bin at each station
- Designate a "clean-up point" and assign the host to monitor the floor

Residual risk: Low.

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Manual Handling

Hazards: Strains/sprains from lifting stock and equipment.

Who's at risk: Host/instructor primarily.

Controls:

- Use wheeled bags/trolleys where possible; split loads into smaller boxes.
- Use correct lifting technique; ask venue staff for help with heavy items.
- Allow enough setup time to avoid rushing.

Residual risk: Low.

Table Protection

Hazards: Product spills and colour staining.

Who's at risk: Venue (property), host (liability), participants (personal items).

Controls:

- Use table coverings and/or disposable mats; keep wipes handy.
- Set up a controlled environment
- Brief participants to keep personal items off the table edges; provide a side table for coats/bags.

Residual risk: Low.

Behavioral Risks

Hazards: Breakages, spills, injuries if participants are careless (especially with glassware).

Who's at risk: Everyone.

Controls:

- Clear start-of-session briefing; host has authority to pause/stop activity.
- If alcohol is present, keep glass items controlled.
- Maintain appropriate supervision ratio for group size.

Residual risk: Medium (depends on group).