

CANDLE SHACK

GLOSSARY OF CANDLE MAKING TERMS

Aftersmoke (Afterglow)	When the wick continues to smoke or glow after you have blown out the flame
Bridging	The term used when a burning wick curls to such an extent that the tip of the wick makes contact with the surface of the melt pool
Burn Test	Informal term for process used to assess the burning performance of a candle
Burn Test Cycle	The total time of a burning period and the pause after the burning period. The process of burning a full candle from start to finish consists of a series of burn test cycles
Burning Period	The length of time between lighting a candle and extinguishing the flame
Cavity	A gap or void that is formed inside or on the surface of a candle as the wax contracts during the cooling and curing process. Also known as a sink hole
Cold Throw	The fragrance emitted from a fragranced container candle before the candle is lit
CLP	General term for the label on the bottom of a candle or diffuser. The CLP label displays the pictograms, signal words and standard statements for hazards, storage etc. The label is a legal requirement under the Classification, Labelling and Packaging (CLP) Regulation ((EC) No 1272/2008)
Clubbing	Build-up of carbon deposits on the candle wick, caused by incomplete combustion
Crystallisation	The process where a poured candle mixture changes from a liquid to a solid mass which then “cures” to a stable form. See also curing time
Curing Time	The period of time between pouring the candle and the candle reaching a state where it can be lit to give optimum performance. The curing time will differ for each wax/fragrance oil mixture. See also crystallisation
Double Pour	A candle pouring technique in which a container candle is poured in two stages. Typically, the first pour will fill 70-90% of the candle. After cooling, when the wax has contracted, the second pour fills the candle to the desired level
Essential Oil	An oil obtained by distillation of plant extracts, intended to capture the characteristic fragrance or “essence” of the plant. Essential oils are often marketed as blends of different oils

Flame Height	The distance between the base of the flame and the top of the flame
Flash Point	The flash point of a liquid (e.g., a fragrance oil) is the temperature at which the liquid gives off enough vapour that could cause it to ignite (albeit briefly) if exposed to a source of ignition
Fire Safety Test	An informal term used for the series of tests and measurements performed on a candle to ensure that it meets the requirements of BS EN 15493:2019 (Candles - Specification for Fire Safety)
Fragrance Oil	The concentrated liquid fragrance that is added to scented container candles, wax melts and diffusers. See also essential oil
Fragrance Content	The proportion of oil in the candle mixture. A fragrance content of 10% means that a 100g candle contains 90g of wax and 10g of oil
Fragrance Load	The ratio of oil to wax. A fragrance load of 10% means that you add 10% of the wax mass as oil. So, to 100g of wax, you would add 10g of oil. Fragrance Load does not refer to the percentage of oil in the candle as a whole
Frosting	The “frosting” often referred to in candle-making is an example of “polymorphism”, where the solid mass of wax and fragrance oil changes into a different crystal form over time, causing a frost-like effect on the surface of the candle
Full Melt Pool (FMP)	When the melt pool in a container candle covers the entire surface of the candle
Glass Adhesion	A term used to describe how well a particular wax/fragrance mixture adheres to a candle glass. As wax cools, it contracts and pulls away from the glass leaving visible gaps on the inside of the glass. Plant waxes generally have better glass adhesion than mineral waxes
Hang-up	The term used to describe the coating of wax left on the inner wall of a container candle as the candle burns down. See also tunneling
Hot Throw	The fragrance emitted from a fragranced container candle when the candle is burning
IFRA	International Fragrance Association
IFRA Statement	Informal name for the “Certificate of Conformity to IFRA Standards”. This document is legally required for each fragrance oil. The IFRA Statement lists the maximum permitted levels of use of each fragrance oil in different product categories, e.g. candles, soaps, lotions
Jump Lines	Also known as jump marks, these are a series of horizontal lines that can be seen on the inside of a clear candle glass when higher-melting waxes (typically mineral wax) have been used to pour a candle without pre-heating the candle glass. They are formed as the liquid wax solidifies on the cold surface of the glass

Melt Pool	The area of liquid wax that forms around the wick(s) of a container candle as the candle burns
Mineral Wax	Wax derived from distillation of petrochemical by-products
Mixing Temperature	Informal term used to describe the recommended temperature for mixing fragrance oil or dye with candle wax to ensure that the fragrance oil or dye will dissolve in the wax
Mushrooming	An extreme form of clubbing that can look like a small black mushroom
Natural Wax	A term often used to refer to plant wax
Overwicked	When the wick in a candle causes a burn rate that is higher than expected or desired, the candle is said to be overwicked. See also underwicked
Paraffin Wax	Another name for mineral wax
Plant Wax	Wax derived from plant oils, e.g. coconut, rapeseed, soy
Pouring Temperature	The recommended temperature for pouring a specific candle mixture into a candle glass
Pre-Heating	Heating of a candle glass before pouring the candle
Pull-away	See glass adhesion
Safety Data Sheet (SDS)	A document that provides safety information about a substance
Secondary Ignition	A flame other than that on the actual wick(s) on the candle
Single Pour	This is when a container candle can be filled to the top in a single pouring process
Sink Hole	See cavity
Soot	Black powdery carbon deposit caused by incomplete combustion of candle wax and fragrance oils
Soot Test	An informal term used for the testing of a candles using specialised soot testing apparatus to ensure that it meets the requirements of BS EN 15426:2018 (Candles - Specification for Sooting Behaviour)
Sustainer	The metal support used to secure the wick to the base of the candle glass
Synthetic Fragrance Oils	Fragrance oils that are developed by professional perfumers using organic chemical building blocks
Sweating	Leaching of fragrance oil (or oil from the wax blend) from the candle onto the surface of the wax
Tunneling	This is an extreme form of hang-up, indicating that the candle may be under-wicked or that the wick is incompatible with the wax/fragrance oil mixture

Underwicked	When the wick in a candle causes a burn rate that is lower than expected or desired, the candle is said to be underwicked. See also overwicked
Wick	The part of a candle that is lit, creating a flame that melts more wax. The liquid wax is then drawn back into the wick via capillary action to fuel the flame and continue the burning process
Wick Claw	A tool used to ensure that the candle wick is positioned in the centre of the candle.
Wick Posture	The shape adopted by the candle wick during the burning process. Good wick posture is required to keep the flame at a suitable height.
Wick Wax	The wax that is used to coat the candle wick.
Wick Yield	A measure of the thickness of a candle wick. The units used are grams per metre (g/m) or metres per kilogram (m/kg). These values refer to the unwaxed wick. For example, a wick with a yield value of 1.50 g/m means that a 1 metre length of raw wick weighs 1.50 grams. The m/kg system is basically an “inverted” version of the above. A wick with a yield value of 665m/kg means that 1 kg of raw wick will stretch to a length of 665 metres.