



e-Newsletter

March 2008

Thank you for signing up for our e-newsletter !

We value your participation in our growing community, and welcome your comments, suggestions, and ideas. We are here to provide you with the healthiest candles available on the planet. Pure Beeswax candles, all cotton wicks.

Topics in this issue:

- Toxic Candles - how do I know?
- Easter candles are in
- Beehives and local sales updates



Honey Bunnies and Decorated Eggs
Don't miss these, they are going fast !

News from our two hives:

We're still deep in the Michigan Winter here, and have checked our hives on one fine day... both have survived the winter and we'll be dividing them and will have more hives and honey by summer. We will have honey available for sale.

We'll be selling candles at the S.E.M.B.A. (beekeeping) conference this Saturday, 3/15/08, at Schoolcraft College in Livonia.

March 7th and 8th Barbara was invited to teach beeswax candlemaking at the Michigan Beekeepers Association Conference, held on the MSU campus in East Lansing. Our candles were also a big hit, and folks kept asking about our life like morel and corn candles....which we made our own molds for.

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Toxic Candles - what are they? How do I know before I buy?

Toxic candles make you ill and can deposit black soot on all of your walls, ceilings, carpet, upholstery and draperies. Warning flags are kinds of wick & wax.

Beeswax is not a toxic candle wax, as it is made from the beeswax produced by the honey bee inside their hive. It's the only naturally occurring candle wax.

All other waxes are suspect, and not just because you're reading it here. Consider Paraffin wax. That's the white stuff most candles are made of. It begins as sludge left over from petroleum processing, and then it's bleached and treated with solvents (carcinogenic) that remove impurities and make it look nice and sterile and white (so we think it's clean and safe). Then to use it in candles, most is colored and heavy artificial perfumes are added. We've read it's like backing up a diesel truck to your door and breathing the exhaust.*

Soy and Palm oils are also being used as candle wax. We think each need to be extracted from the soy plant or nuts, or palm plant, in order to get enough of it to use for candlemaking. The chemicals used to extract it may also be bad for you.

Another warning flag of toxic candles is the wick. Toxic candles usually have a little wire in the wick. This wire is composed of metals that vaporize when burned. So the metals in the little wire, become metal vapors in the air you breathe, like lead. Whole families have been lead poisoned from the vapors of burning just one jar candle with an unseen lead wire in the wick.***

Wicks used to contain lead in the wires, and you will still see this today, though most of the metal wire you see in candles in the USA now is called a "zinc core wick" or "lead-free wick." That's usually just a fancy way of saying there's a little metal wire in that cotton wick. Look for all cotton wicks.

To check the candles in your home, get a magnifying glass and some sharp scissors. Have a good look at the wick, and look for a shiny, silver colored metal wire inside the white cotton wick. This is hard to find at first, so cut the wick and see if you feel you are cutting a wire... pull the cotton back, bend it, look for a wire. If you find a wire, or the fumes make you slightly ill, irritate your face or others in your homethen throw out the candle. Be safe, not sorry later.

More advice from the reference below: "Get cotton wicks, keep wicks trimmed to 1/4 inch, keep out of drafts or wind. Don't use slow-burning candles with additives (these often feel greasy to the touch), instead use pure beeswax candles, which emit less pollution in your home. Don't use scented candles, use aromatherapy diffusers and drops of essential oils. Don't use candles in jars when the burning candle leaves a black soot ring on the jar's lip. The soot may be a signal of lead dust deposited." Use pure Beeswax candles with all cotton wicks.

References: *** "Don't blow off candle safety--watch the wicks" article. CNN.com February 1, 2000.
* "Candles: A Burning Question" 5 Eyewitness News April 1, 2006.



That's all for now, peace and best wishes as we begin a new cycle of the seasons.
Two Bees Candles www.twobeescandles.com