

Beeswax was one of the first ingredients used for making candles; recognized since ancient Roman times—and subsequently by many other civilizations—for its effective aromatic burning properties. (Beeswax burns very slowly and smells deliciously sweet.)

Why Beeswax?

The Candle Shop
Honeyflow Farm - Dryden, Michigan
PO Box 275, 48428 - 1-810-796-2344
www.honeyflowfarm.com



Other waxes were tried as an alternative to beeswax. Tallow, the fat rendered from cattle or sheep was messy, didn't burn long and had an offensive odor. Waxes from sperm whales & vegetables were tried and were somewhat better. In the mid 1800's paraffin, a by-product of crude oil was discovered. Most paraffin waxes burn at a lower temperature than beeswax and are used for most mass produced candles that are sold today.

Beeswax is made from the nectar of flowers! The honeybees produce beeswax from wax glands on the sides of their body and use it to create "cells" to store their honey in. Its color may vary from white to yellow or brown. It possesses a subtle aroma, the fragrance of honey ingrained with the other scents present in a bee hive. The demand for beeswax exceeds the supply in most years. For this reason, it is expensive. On the average, eight pounds of honey are consumed by the bees for each pound of wax made by the colony. A large amount of the available beeswax is used in cosmetics and in many waxes and polishes.

We use only beeswax on our farm to produce candles! Our candles are made from raw, unprocessed wax produced from our bees at our farm. The wax is cleaned by lightly straining it & letting it "settle" in a large tank where the heavier impurities settle to the bottom, this will ensure that the fragrance and quality of the wax will not be damaged by being over processed. We guarantee that our candles are handmade products and each one will be unique. In keeping with this natural theme we use large old fashioned "square braid" wicks

Enjoy Your Candles!

Relighting Pillars - Sometimes a pillar can be difficult to relight and it is helpful to scrape out a small area around the wick (1/2 inch or so) before lighting.

Keep the wick straight up. Sometimes we have found (recently when burning a Heart Pillar) that if the wick is sticking out at an angle the pool of wax will be off-centered causing the candle to possibly leak. I just pushed the wick upright with a pencil.

Pillars should be "hugged" as they are burned. Any pillar will tend to burn down and create a deep cavity in the center of the pillar. When the pillar has burned for a while and the wax is softer, try gently folding in the sides toward the flame. This "hugging" will cause the wax on the sides of the pillar to be consumed. Do not do too much at once or the flame will be drowned out.

The thing to keep in mind for any pillar is to not let the pool of wax overflow the sides!

Very irregular shaped pillars such as our Rose, Bethlehem, Angels should only be burned for 1 hour at a time. Some people do not burn the very decorative pillars at all (Baby Bear, Pilgrims, etc)

in most of our candles, which makes the candles absorb the wax better, allowing them to burn brighter and drip less.

What is the dusty substance on the surface of many beeswax candles?

The dusty looking substance on the surface of the candles is called "bloom". It is a naturally occurring substance on all beeswax candles after they have been aged for a period of time. It is desired by many people as it gives the candle a very "antique" look and only beeswax will develop it. If desired, it may be rubbed off with a soft cloth or removed with the gentle use of a hair dryer.

Tips for Burning Pillars and Other Large Candles

All pillars (beeswax or paraffin) need to be carefully monitored during burning. Keep an eye on the circular pool of wax surrounding the flame. If the pool of wax becomes too large or too close to the edge, it may overflow the sides. Extinguish the candle before it overflows. We try different wicks in all of our candles to get the best results, but some candles may not be burned as long as others at one time. Cylindrical pillars or very large pillars such as our Large Ball, Cut Glass, or Large 2 Wick pillars may be burned for longer periods. We have burned these for 3-5 hours at a time.

Somewhat irregular in shape pillars such as our Hexagonal pillar (4 1/2 inch or 9 inch) or Heart Pillars should only be burned for 2-3 hours at a time.