

# SOY WAX CANDLES

Are you wondering what all the fuss with soy candles is about? So was I. Yes, I understand they are a natural, renewable product, but other than that I really didn't know anything about them. So I did my research and this is what the hoopla is all about.

Most candles are made from paraffin, which is a petroleum product. Now if you know anything about petroleum, you know that it contains toxins and is a non renewable resource. Just knowing it contains toxins which by the way are carcinogenic, makes it obvious that if you burn it contaminants are released into the air you breathe. How dangerous is that? I don't know about you, but with soooo many people getting cancer every day, I really don't want to increase my chances. Just look at a paraffin candle burning in a jar and see how black it can get the sides of the jar. Since paraffin contains benzene (the same chemical you get from a car's tailpipe), zylene, formaldehyde, acetaldehyde and acetone, how much of it did you just inhale? These soot particles are VERY small, and can penetrate into the deepest part of your lungs. So, how much is dangerous? I know the Food and Drug Administration puts a number on it, but do we know how much was in our candle, and do we really know if the "number" is really safe? How can any toxin be safe? How do we know that it doesn't stay in our system, or damage some cells? I don't think they do know.

So now you wonder if it isn't safe then why do they make candles out of it? How ingenious is that? Well don't ask the FDA, because they had given it their seal of approval. Of course they gave that to NutraSweet, and a lot of prescription drugs that have killed a lot of people too. In fact, they approved it for use in food, cosmetics, and medical applications. And we wonder why cancer and other diseases are on the rise even with our medical advancements.

I am really on a mission to do as much natural living as I can, so burning candles that are made from paraffin is not the ticket for me. I don't want to give a penny more to the greedy oil cartel than I have to.

Well then, naturally, that brings us back to soy, which easily wins the game. Soy wax is made from soy beans, so it's natural, non-toxic, renewable, and 100% biodegradable. It burns cleanly, producing little soot, no known pollutants, they also burn slower, cooler, and longer than paraffin candles (up to 50% longer), and any wax that spills on furniture or clothing can be cleaned up with hot soapy water. This is a huge seller for me. Try cleaning up paraffin wax....mostly impossible. To top it all off, soy candles are made from American grown soybeans, so purchases are supporting our economy. It has been estimated that if soybean candles represented just 10% of the candle market, that would require an additional 55 million pounds of American grown soybean oil. Cheap paraffin candles made in other countries doesn't benefit anyone but the big business selling it. More jobs America????

It's a common misconception that the wick burns to produce the flame on a candle. Initially that is true, but as the burning wick heats the wax, and it melts, very quickly a small amount of the wax vaporizes and combines with oxygen to form the flame. As the flame continues to melt the solid candle wax, the wick continues to draw the melted wax up to be vaporized, which keeps the flame burning. If you look closely at a flame you'll see that the flame is almost invisible at the base of the wick where the wax is melting and vaporizing. Just above that is a bluer area where the hydrogen is mixing with oxygen to create water vapor. The bright yellow above that is where the carbon created in the reaction is burning and releasing carbon dioxide. Candles are remarkable little power-houses aren't they?

Now, what about the fragrances that are added to the candles? How does that affect us as it is being burned? When it's said that a candle scent "throws well", this means it fills the room with a strong, lasting scent. Soy wax candles not only have a great scent

throw, but also have a cleaner smell. It's been noted by many that paraffin wax can give headaches and cause sinus irritation. Of course it's not the scent itself, but the additional chemicals the paraffin is burning off. Because soy burns so clean, you'll get a cleaner scent as well. Some people believe that a natural ingredient, as opposed to a manufactured or synthesized ingredient, is not necessarily any safer. In fact, scores of natural ingredients are known to be extremely toxic to humans in very small amounts. While that can certainly be true believe it or not, there are health and safety studies done on fragrance materials, including toxicological and dermatological tests. So since manufacturers of candles whether they be soy, beeswax, palm wax or paraffin follow these guidelines the chances of the fragrance being toxic is extremely unlikely. Now don't get me wrong, I don't put much stock in any government or corporate agency these days, but if you want to be 100% certain no fragrance has any toxicity, then stick with soy candles with essential oils for scents. I don't personally know of any soy candles with any toxicity, but I am not sure you can be certain about all manufacturers. I know our soy candles are safe and environmentally perfect.

Now, you know soy wax candles are all natural and are produced from soybeans, but don't you wonder how they do that? Well, I did, and here is the process. The most common method of obtaining soy oil and subsequent soy flour is through a method of oil extraction involving rolling the clean dehulled soybeans into flakes and the oil is extracted leaving the soybeans to be made into flour or meal. The oil is then hydrogenated which turns the oil into a wax. Hydrogenation is basically where the oil is solidified by temporarily mixing hydrogen with the soy oil at an elevated temperature through a special proprietary process. Once hydrogenated the soy oil is now soy wax. Pure soy wax is white or slightly off-white. 100% soy wax is even safe for consumption, although not recommended. Currently most hydrogen is made by passing steam through natural gas, creating a compound of carbon monoxide and hydrogen. The compound is purified by changing the carbon monoxide to carbon dioxide and then the carbon dioxide is dissolved in water. Hydrogen is left behind after this process. This is the only

downside to making soybean wax. Once we are able to get hydrogen without the use of gas, we will be doing even better.

Another upside to soy wax is using certain producers. Ecosoya producers, NGI, only procure their soybeans from established farmers, which means that no forests are being destroyed to produce the wax. They also guarantee that Ecosoya Wax contains no pesticides, herbicides, or genetically modified material. That is huge!!!!!! THAT is what makes a completely environmentally friendly people safe and enjoyable candle. It is the bomb.

Since we are a great believer in the natural soy wax candle, you can find them for sale on our website: <http://www.dreamspiritdancer.com/products/candles/>