

How to Put Pictures onto Candles

The biggest enemy of découpage candles? Unsightly air bubbles. It might take numerous attempts before you get smooth and flawless results, without uneven lumps and bumps on the surface of your candles.

Practise sticking spare, leftover pieces of paper onto a candle first, before you attach your final paper.

You can do a variety of candle découpage techniques, without using glue: print your favourite photograph/s onto ordinary typing paper, and fix them onto the candle with wax paper; melt designs cut out of paper napkins onto a candle; stick water transfers onto candles. Finish the candles off by overdipping them with plain paraffin wax, or a glossy sealer wax.

Safety tips: these candles are a huge fire hazard. Stick the designs onto the bottom half of the candle only, and peel back the paper as the candle burns down. Preferably, use a wide cone-shaped or round or square pillar candle, at least 10 cm (4 inches) in diameter, which burns down the center. The flame won't touch the paper, and you'll be safe.

Suitable Paper Types and Methods for Candle Decoupage

- Typing paper printed with your own photos and designs
- Gift wrap
- Decoupage paper
- Water transfers
- Paper napkins

Sticking Water Transfers onto Candles

Water transfers, specially made for candles, come in thousands of designs, suitable for special occasions, weddings, corporate events, seasonal holidays, gifts, and more.

Soak each transfer in water for 30 seconds. Position the design onto your candle. Peel back the base, and stick it onto your candle. Leave to dry. Pleased with the results? Leave it as is. Feel like some extra gloss? Do a 3-second paraffin wax dip.

Adhering Paper Designs onto a Candle with Waxed Paper

You can apply a variety of different papers to a candle. Some ideas: your own paper prints; pieces of wrapping paper; découpage paper cut-outs; or thin, flexible greeting cards. Overdip with clear glossy wax at 103°C (217°F), or dunk the candle into paraffin wax for 3 seconds.

For the pictured candle, we used:

- An ivory pillar candle, 8.5 x 20cm (3.4 x 8")
- Decoupage paper with strawberry designs
- A sheet of wax paper
- A hair dryer
- Paraffin wax for overdipping
- An old coffee tin as dipping can



Instructions:

1. Cut a motif from the paper with a sharp pair of scissors.
2. Position the design on the candle.



3. Wrap the candle in the wax paper with the waxy side on the design.
4. Blow dry the designs onto the candle. Stop every now and again, and rub over the design with your fingertips to dispel any bubbles. Keep this up until the wax paper's

completely transparent, and the design's firmly attached to the surface of the candle. Too hot to handle? Keep the wax paper in place with an elastic band, or piece of string, so your hands don't take the full heat of the blow dryer.

5. Leave the wax paper on the candle until cool, and peel it off slowly.
6. Heat the paraffin wax to 93°C, (199.4°F). Submerge the candle for 3 seconds. Pull it out quickly, (to avoid drip lines forming on the surface). For tall candles, you can dip half the candle's length, wait one minute, turn it over, and dip the other half.
7. Neaten the base of the candle with a hot iron, or in an old pan on the stove.

Attaching Paper Napkin Designs onto Candles

Paper napkins come in a huge variety of designs, suitable for any occasion.

Remove the two plain bottom layers of tissue paper, and work with the decorated top layer only. Master this technique, and enjoy the flawless finish, and supremely decorative effects, this process gives your candles.

You'll need:

- A pillar candle
- A decorative paper napkin
- Two spoons
- Clear overdipping wax
- Scissors
- A dipping can taller than your candle, (old coffee tins work very well)



Instructions:

1. Start melting the wax in your chosen dipping can.
2. Cut the designs out of the paper napkin.
3. Heat the spoons on a stove-plate. You'll work with the one, while the other stays warm.
4. Position the design onto the candle, and working from the center outwards, rub the hot spoon over the design, melting and fixing it onto the candle. Go over it again and again, eliminating all air bubbles.

5. When the dipping wax reaches 93°C (199.4°F), submerge the candle slowly, keep it in the wax for 3 seconds, and pull it out quickly.
6. Warm an old pan up on the stovetop, and neaten the base of the candle in it. Or use a hot iron, and run it over the base of the candle.

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