



Pooja Fire Safety

Pooja is an important Hindu practice to offer devotional homage and prayer to one or more deities, to host and honour a guest, or to spiritually celebrate an event. Whether practicing a daily pooja done in the home, or occasionally at temple ceremonies and annual festivals, fire safety should be an important element of the ritual.

- ◆ Place diyas and candles firmly in a sturdy holder on a heat resistant surface.
- ◆ Keep flames at a safe distance from curtains, furniture, decorations and loose clothing. Closets do not provide sufficient space for open flames.
- ◆ Use only enough ghee for a diya to last your pooja.
- ◆ Diyas and candles must be watched by an adult. Put them out before you leave a room and before you go to bed.
- ◆ If a diya or candle must burn continuously, be sure it is enclosed in a glass container and placed in a sink, on a metal tray, or in a deep basin filled with water.
- ◆ Keep diyas, candles, lighters, and matches out of the reach of children and pets.
- ◆ Consider using battery operated flameless candles instead of traditional candles.



Havan

- Place a heat resistant mat under the Havan Kund and ensure it is on a secure surface.
- Keep anything that can burn, children and pets at least 3 feet from the fire.
- It's a good idea to crack a window open for a fresh supply of air.
- Soak ashes thoroughly with water and always let ashes cool before disposing of them into a closed metal container. The metal container should be kept outside, a safe distance away from your home or any other structures.
- Have a means of extinguishing the fire nearby, either a fire extinguisher or a bucket of water.

Smoke Alarms

Install smoke alarms on every level of the home, inside every bedroom, and outside each sleeping area.

Test the smoke alarm each month by pressing and holding the test button.

Replace batteries based on manufacturer's recommendations or sooner if it begins to chirp. Some alarms have a long life battery that lasts several years.

Replace smoke alarms when they are 10 years old.



For additional fire and life safety information, visit loudoun.gov/firemarshal or call 703.737.8600.

