

**Hand dipped Hanukkah Candles**  
Board of Jewish Education of Greater New York  
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**MATERIALS:**       paraffin  
                          cotton string or store-bought candle wicks  
                          newspaper  
                          cooking pot  
                          tall tin can (should fit comfortably in pot)  
                          fork  
                          scissors

**DIRECTIONS:**

1. Candle dipping can be messy. Spread newspaper around where you will be working.
2. Fill the can  $\frac{2}{3}$  full of water and place in the pot. Fill the pot about  $\frac{1}{2}$  full of water and put over medium heat.
3. As the water in the pot and in the can begins to boil, add chunks of paraffin to the can until it is nearly full. Wax is lighter than water and, as it melts, it will form a layer on top of the water.
4. For candle dipping, the melted wax must be at just the right temperature - not too hot or the wax will slide off the wick; not too cool, or it will be too thick for dipping. You'll have to find the right temperature by trial and error. In general, turn the heat down to a low setting once the wax has melted, or else turn it off. (If you turn the heat off, make sure the wax does not begin to thicken.)
5. Cut a piece of cotton string or wicking material at least twice as long as the can is high, and weave it between the prongs of a fork, leaving the ends dangling.
6. Holding the fork handle, dip the dangling wicks into the can until they touch bottom. As the wicks pass through the layer of molten wax, the wax will be deposited on them. Pull the wicks out of the can and wait for the wax to harden. Be sure to keep the two wicks separated.
7. Continue to dip, always letting the wax harden between dippings. After a few dippings, the wicks may need to be straightened, but as the wax builds up, the candles become quite stiff and straight on their own. Dip the wicks quickly in and out of the wax until the candles are the thickness you want. It takes many dippings – sometimes 50 – before the candle is fat. (You may want to speed up the process by filling a tall pitcher with cold water and alternately dipping candles between wax and water.)
8. When your candles are complete, they will have the connecting wick between them. Snip the loops with scissors and trim the wicks to about one-half inch.