

Halloween Safety Tips

The scary part of Halloween should come from the ghouls and goblins that show up on your doorstep in a quest for candy – not from a lack of safety.

Here are some tips to keep Halloween activities safe and fun for all.

Pumpkin Carving

- Get the kids involved but make safety a priority. Let them draw the carving pattern with a marker, clean out the inside pulp and seeds, and add any decorations. Leave the carving to the adults.
- A slippery pumpkin is a dangerous pumpkin! Place the pumpkin on a non-slip surface and make sure it and your carving tools are dry.
- Carve in short, controlled strokes with gentle force to avoid slippage. Long, deep cuts can cause the knife to become wedged and lead to an injury when it is pulled out.
- For extra safety, purchase a pumpkin carving kit which comes with a pumpkin saw. Not only is the saw less likely to become jammed, it is less sharp than a knife and reduces the chances of injury.

Costumes

- Choose a costume with brightly-colored materials that allow for strong visibility at night. If the costume does not have any bright colors, add reflective tape to the costume and trick-or-treat bag.
- If the costume has a mask, make sure the eyeholes are large enough to allow the wearer to see clearly straight ahead and peripherally. Cut larger openings if necessary.
- Shoes should fit properly and costumes should be short to prevent tripping and entanglement. Avoid excessively loose-fitting costumes to lessen the chance of coming into contact with an open flame.
- Any accessories, such as swords and knives should be short, soft, and flexible.

Trick or Treating

An adult should always accompany small children, but if the kids are big enough to go out on their own, make sure they stay safe:

- Never allow your children to trick-or-treat alone; You should know the other children yours will be with.
- Give them flashlights with fresh batteries and instruct them to use them.
- Tell them to visit only houses with lights on. You may also suggest they limit their visits to houses with some sort of Halloween decorations on the porch.
- Instruct your children to never go inside a stranger's house.
- Know the route your kids take and instruct them not to deviate from the route.
- Have them check in regularly, by phone or text.
- Set a time that you expect them to be home.
- Instruct them to respect other people's property and remind them that vandalism is a crime.
- Make sure they understand not to eat any candy or treats until you have had a chance to carefully inspect everything.

Lastly, if you are driving during trick-or-treating hours, stay well below the posted speed limit in residential areas to give yourself time to brake if a child darts in front of your car.

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