

Halloween Safety Tips

Halloween is one of the most fun times of the year for kids and adults alike. But with great fun comes great responsibility to keep it safe. Here are some Halloween safety ideas to keep the entire family free of unwanted scares and with a bagful of ghoulishly good times.



Trick or Treat Traffic Safety

As with most child safety issues, adult supervision is a must to ensure trick-or-treating remains fun. Children under the age of 12 should not trick or treat without an adult present. Teach children to cross streets at crosswalks and to obey all traffic signals. Remind them how to look four ways, (left, right, front and back), when crossing the street. Enforce a stay-on-the-sidewalks rule or if your neighborhood doesn't have sidewalks, instruct kids to walk facing traffic as far from the roadway as possible.

Helpful Tip:

Give children flashlights as part of their trick-or-treat gear. They're fun and help kids to see and be seen by others.

trick or treat

Tell children not to enter a stranger's house unless you're around, and to remain in sight at all times. Avoid cutting through alleys and other dark, unoccupied areas. This might be a good time to revisit your "stranger danger" talk. Let kids know that they should not eat any candy they collect until you have examined it later at home. Kids love to empty their bags and examine their loot. This is a good time to look it all over before deciding it's okay to eat. In most cases, homemade treats should be avoided just to play it safe. Unopened, commercially packaged treats are usually the safest.

Safety Alert!

If you're driving a car on Halloween, remember to drive slowly and carefully, keeping an eye out at all times for trick-or-treaters and other pedestrians.

Halloween Costume Safety

While kids' costumes can be scary-looking, they shouldn't be scary to wear. When selecting a costume, be sure that it fits correctly so your kids can avoid trips and falls. If your child's costume includes a mask, make sure that the eye holes are large enough so that it doesn't cover the eyes or otherwise make it hard to see where they're walking. When choosing a costume, select a light-colored one that is visible at night or attach reflective tape to the costume so that your kids will be visible to motorists and other pedestrians in the dark.





Helpful Tip:

Encourage kids to keep masks off when walking between houses during trick or treating or consider face paint/makeup in lieu of a mask.

Glow sticks are a fun way to provide light so kids can see when walking.

They also make them more visible to everyone else.

Any accessories such as swords or wands should be soft and flexible.

Safety Alert!

Remove any makeup before the kids go to bed to avoid any overnight irritation to skin or eyes. Usually just water and a washcloth will work.

Pet Safety

Keep your 4-legged friends healthy and safe during Halloween by taking just a few simple steps. Keep candy out of reach so that Fido doesn't get into it. Treats like chocolate can be toxic to dogs, cats and other pets. Decorative items can become a hazard as well. If you hang lights and other electric decorations, keep wires and cords tucked away where pets can't chew on them. Keep candle-lit pumpkins out of reach so that a pet doesn't accidentally knock one over and get burned or create a potential fire.

If your pet is the type that runs to the door every time someone knocks or rings the doorbell, keep them enclosed in another room or part of the house away from the front door so they don't cause a problem.

Helpful Tip:

When opening your front door for trick-or-treaters, make sure your pet doesn't make a run for it. Keep ID tags up to date and securely on your pet.

Decorating

When decorating for Halloween, remember to keep safety in mind. Keep walkways and stairs free of obstacles and debris that might cause someone to fall. Keep these areas well-lit as well. Keep your porch light on during trick-or-treat hours. Keep jack o' lanterns and other decorative items that may hold an open flame away from steps and walkways. Inside, keep these types of items away from curtains and other potentially flammable materials.

Helpful Tip:

Use battery operated candles inside of jack o' lanterns when available.



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