

Tips for Adults

Parents of trick-or-treating kids can get so caught up in the fun themselves that they might forget some simple safety ideas that could save everyone some trouble. Having a fun and safe Halloween will make it all worth while.



Below are just a few common sense tips that can help.

- Make sure to carry your cell phone, fully charged.
- Know the route your kids will be taking if you are not going with them.
- The best bet is to make sure that an adult is going with them. If you cannot take them, see if another parent or a teenage sibling can go along.
- Know what other activities a child may be attending, such as parties, school or mall functions.
- Make sure you set a time that they should be home by. Make sure they know how important it is for them to be home on time.
- Explain to children the difference between tricks and vandalism. Throwing eggs at a house may seem like fun but they need to know the other side of the coin as well, clean up and damages can ruin Halloween. If they are caught vandalizing, make them clean up the mess they have made. Vandals are subject to arrest.
- Explain to your kids that animal cruelty is not acceptable. Kids may know this on their own but peer pressure can be a bad thing. Make sure that they know that harming animals is not only morally wrong but punishable by law and will not be tolerated.

Homeowners

Leave the Porch Light on for Trick-or-Treaters

Adequate light is essential for visitors and trick-or-treaters to see where they are going. Leave the porch light on and if needed, install additional lights in the front yard to avoid someone tripping over something he or she can't see.

Keep Walkways Clear on Halloween

Make sure walkways and the front yard are clean and clutter-free to prevent falls. Decorative items and Jack-O-Lanterns should also be positioned at a safe distance from crowds to prevent people from knocking and tripping over them.

Confine Pets Elsewhere

Although pets are a big part of many families, they need to be properly confined in a safe place on Halloween when there will be many visitors and trick-or-treaters coming and leaving. The new sights and sounds may excite, agitate or frighten some of them, resulting in unexpected behaviors.

Cats may jump on tables and counters with Halloween lights and props while a dog may mistake guests for intruders, attacking them swiftly the minute the door is open. Some pets may also chew on the decorations or worse, on the electrical cords used to light up and decorate the house. So be sure that the cords are properly covered and secured.

Offer Non-Candy Treats to Young Visitors

Food safety is another Halloween-related safety issue. Candy and sweets were usually given to kids as treats on Halloween. These treats, though not meant to cause any harm in any way, can cause reactions to children with food allergies. And while most kids would have been warned by their parents not to eat any treats without letting their parents examine them first, some may just give in to temptation and eat them.

To avoid adverse food reactions, consider offering non-candy treats to young visitors and trick-or-treaters. Stickers, pencils, small notebooks, crayons, a few coins, balloons and cheap small toys all make good candy substitutes. Halloween is meant to be fun and spooky not just for the family but for visitors as well. Make the house safe for everyone on Halloween.

Rhode Island
State Police

HALLOWEEN
SAFETY TIPS

Colonel Brendan P. Doherty

Commissioner, Rhode Island Department of
Public Safety

Superintendent, Rhode Island State Police



Tips for Kids

Anytime a child has an accident, it is tragic. The last thing that you want to happen is for your child to be hurt on a holiday, it would forever live in the minds of the child and the family.

There are many ways to keep your child safe at Halloween, when they are more prone to accidents and injuries. The excitement of children and adults at this time of year sometimes makes them forget to be careful. Simple common sense can do a lot to stop any tragedies from happening.

- Older kids should carry a fully charged cell phone.
- Help your child pick out or make a costume that will be safe. Make it fire proof, the eye holes should be large enough for good peripheral vision.
- If you set jack-o-lanterns on your porch with candles in them, make sure that they are far enough out of the way so that kids costumes will not accidentally be set on fire.
- Make sure that if your child is carrying a prop, such as a scythe, butcher knife or pitchfork, that the tips are smooth and flexible enough to not cause injury if fallen on.
- Kids always want to help with the pumpkin carving. Small children should not be allowed to use a sharp knife to cut the top or the face. There are many kits available that come with tiny saws that work better than knives and are safer, although you can be cut by them as well. It is best to let the kids clean out the pumpkin and draw a face on it, which you can carve for them.
- Treating your kids to a spooky Halloween dinner will make them less likely to eat the candy they collect before you have a chance to check it for them.
- Teaching your kids basic everyday safety such as not getting into cars to talking to strangers, watching both ways before crossing streets and crossing when the lights tell you to, will help make them safer when they are out Trick or Treating.

Make Halloween a fun, safe and happy time for your kids and they will carry on the tradition that you taught them to their own families some day!

Kids love
Halloween!



They get to dress up and get free candy! What a perfect holiday! Give your kids some precious Halloween memories that they will have for life.

Trick or treating is not what it used to be. It is not as safe to let kids walk the streets alone. Send a responsible adult or older teenager with them.

MOTORISTS

Exercise extreme caution when driving a vehicle. Be on the alert for excited youngsters, whose vision may be obscured by masks, darting out into traffic.

Stay Bright

Carry a flashlight with fresh batteries and have your kids hold glow sticks. Kids should wear light-colored or reflective-type clothing.

Keep Costumes Short

Falls are the leading cause of unintentional injuries, so watch out for long hems.

Save Face

A mask can block your child's peripheral vision (and can be a suffocation hazard for infants). Stick with nontoxic face paint instead.

Supervision

Young children should not be allowed to go trick-or-treating without being accompanied by an adult or an older responsible youth. Visit homes that are well lit.

Traffic Signals

Look in all directions before crossing the street, and obey all traffic signals. Walk, never run, across the street, and use sidewalks, not the street, for walking. "Kids are twice as likely to be struck and killed by an automobile on Halloween than on any other night."

Be Neighborly

Trick-or-treat in a familiar neighborhood. Stick to the homes of people you know when you can and never let your kids enter alone.

Healthy Eating

Feed your kids a hearty, early dinner so they are not too tempted to sneak treats on the go. Look over all candy before your kids dig in to make sure it is in original, unopened wrappers. Tots under 3 are at increased risk of choking, so remove any hard or gummy candies and chewy bars.