

Halloween Safety



Ghosts, goblins, and other scary sights are part of the fun on Halloween. What makes these things enjoyable is that they are make-believe. The last thing parents or children want is for a poisoning or other injury to occur, making the evening memorable for all the wrong reasons. Keep these tips in mind to help ensure a safe night for all the little witches and vampires:



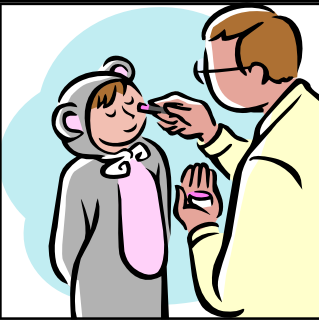
Treats:

- Children should be told to wait until they get home before eating any treats
- Parents should check all candy for ingredients (particularly if food allergies are an issue)
- Throw away any treats that are homemade, unless the giver is known. The same applies to unwrapped or unsealed treats
- Fruit should be washed and cut open to check for foreign objects
- Any harmful objects should be reported to police



Costumes:

- Face paints made of non-toxic material are a safer alternative to face masks
- If children experience skin irritation (rash, itching) remove makeup immediately and wash the area with mild soap and water
- Costumes should be brightly colored, made of non-flammable material, and fitted properly to ensure that the child can move easily and will not easily trip
- Decorate treat bags and costumes with reflective tape
- Use glow sticks carefully to avoid breaking them, as they contain chemicals that may be irritating to the skin and eyes. Call the Poison Centre if this occurs



If you suspect a poisoning has occurred, contact the Poison Centre immediately by dialing 1-800-565-8161

In case of emergency, dial 911



Jack O'Lanterns:

- Children can draw the face on the pumpkin and scrape out the contents
- An adult should do the carving
- Pumpkins with candles should be watched carefully, and placed away from doorways and flammable objects



Trick or Treating:

- Remove obstacles from your lawn and walkway, and leave outside lights on
- Keep pets indoors or in an area away from children
- Feed children a filling meal before trick or treating so that they won't be tempted to snack on candy
- Young trick or treaters should be accompanied by an adult
- Older children should stay in groups, and keep parents informed about where they are going
- Children should trick or treat on one side of the street at a time (avoid crossing back and forth)
- Trick or treaters should carry a flashlight after dusk



For more Halloween Safety tips, visit Health Canada's "Safe Halloween" website at

<http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/hl-vs/securit/season-saison/hal/index-eng.php>



Have a safe and spooky Halloween!



If you have any questions, contact the Poison Centre 24 hours a day by dialing 1-800-565-8161