



Halloween Safety



Halloween can be an exciting time for children, but with the distraction of candy and costumes it can be easy to forget about safety rules. Halloween safety is a shared responsibility.

Parents and Guardians

- Choose the right costume. Avoid costumes with mask. Masks make it hard for children to see what's around them, including cars. Use a face make-up or face paint instead – after doing a patch test on your child's skin to see if they are sensitive or allergic to the product. Remove make-up before going to bed to prevent skin and eye irritation.
- Make sure your child is visible. Make or buy costumes in light or brightly coloured material. Place strips of reflective tape on the back and front of costumes and on the bag used for candy, so that drivers can better see your child. Give your child a flashlight or glowstick to carry or secure a light source onto their costume.
- Costumes should be short to prevent trips and falls and be able to be worn over warm clothing to protect against cold and wet weather. Avoid items such as oversized shoes, high heels, long dresses and long capes.
- Tell children not to eat candy until they get home. All candy should be inspected to make sure it has not been tampered with it. Do not keep unwrapped, homemade or non-commercially made treats. Keep in mind that gum and hard candy can pose a choking risk for young children.
- Children under 12 should be accompanied by an adult. Secure a card with your contact information to the inside of your child's costume in case you get separated. Older children should travel in groups of at least 3. Provide older children with a cell phone, in case they need to make an emergency phone call.

Drivers

Popular trick-or-treating hours are 5:30 pm to 9:30 pm.

- Anticipate heavy pedestrian traffic. Slow down and be especially alert in residential neighborhoods, schools, parks and recreation centres. Children are excited on Halloween and may move in unpredictable ways.
- Take extra time to look for kids at intersections, on medians and on curbs. Enter and exit driveways and alleys slowly and carefully.
- Eliminate any distractions inside your car so you can concentrate on the road and your surroundings.

Children and Youth

- Use a white bag or pillowcase for your candy, and add some reflective tape.
- Dress for the weather. Cold weather or water absorbent materials in the rain can be very uncomfortable.
- Do not visit houses that are not lit. Never go inside a stranger's house.
- Use the sidewalk whenever possible. If there's no sidewalk, walk on the side of the road facing traffic. Cross the street at corners, using traffic signals and crosswalks. Don't criss-cross back and forth across the street. Work your way up one side of the street, and then start on the other.
- If you have any allergies, tell the person who is giving out the treats. Do not eat any of your treats before you get home. All treats should be inspected before eating.

Homeowners

If you are taking trick-or-treaters, it is important to make your home safe.

- Turn on outdoor lights, and replace burnt-out bulbs.
- Remove items from your yard or porch that a child might trip on. Sweep wet leaves from your steps and driveway.
- Use alternative to candles in your pumpkins, such as a flashlight or a battery-operated candle.
- Remember that some children have food allergies. Consider giving treats other than candy, such as juice boxes or water, stickers, erasers or small toys.

If you do not wish for trick-or-treaters to come to your door, make it appear that you are not home. Turn off porch or exterior lights. Close curtains or blinds. Turn off interior lights closest to the front of your house. Park vehicles in your garage.

