
Green Tips

*Make your
Halloween
eco friendly*

Tricks and Treats for Halloween

Halloween should give you some good scares, not actually anything to worry about. For a safe and eco-friendly holiday, try these tips:

- Set a spooky mood with soy or beeswax candles, not those made from petroleum-based paraffin. If you like scented candles, look for ones with fragrances derived from essential oils rather than synthetic chemicals.
- Invest creativity instead of cash in your costume. Dig into the back of the closet (yours or a friend's) or hit the thrift store to find wacky clothes and accessories instead of buying plastic costumes. Need inspiration? The Green Guide and Care2 have clever DIY ideas that can be great projects for adults and kids. (You can make your own decorations too.)
- Avoid masks made out of vinyl. Latex ones are safer, unless you're allergic to the material.
- Whether you're going glamorous or ghoulish, use natural makeup to avoid chemical exposure.
- Hand out fair trade or organic chocolates, organic hard candy, fruit snacks, or other eco-friendly edibles to all those cute trick-or-treaters. Global Exchange even sells a Fair Trade Trick or Treat Action Kit that includes individually wrapped chocolates along with Halloween-themed informational postcards. Worried about rotting those little monsters' teeth? Fun nonfood alternative treats include nontoxic crayons, coloring books, stickers or even small change.
- Whether for dressing up or handing out, avoid costume jewelry especially glossy, fake painted pearls and toys from vending machines, both of which may contain lead.
- Don't forget a reusable shopping bag to carry your trick-or-treating haul!

For the complete list of tips and to follow the links mentioned, check out <http://sierraclub.typepad.com/greenlife/>

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