



HELPFUL DIY TIPS FOR A GREENER HALLOWEEN

PUMPKINS

- Choose a local pumpkin patch to buy from, if that is possible in your area. Fun fact, Illinois grows 80%-90% of pumpkins in the United States.
- In Florida to make sure your pumpkin last all the way till Halloween or Thanksgiving, leave indoors until the big day.
- If going the artificial pumpkin route, try ceramic or something non-plastic or Styrofoam, that will have nice long reusable life. Also try to find a pumpkin that has a Jack-O-Lantern side & a plain side, so they can be used for Halloween & Thanksgiving by simply turning them around.
- Many people paint their pumpkins, use a toxic free paint so the pumpkin could be reused other ways after Halloween.
- If you do not carve them for Jack-O-Lanterns, Before they go bad, make tasty seasonal food with them, here are a list of recipes: <https://brightly.eco/pumpkin-recipes/>
- If you do carve them, save the seeds for either planting to grow your own or eat them: [Roasted Cinnamon Sugar Pumpkin Seeds](#) OR [6 Different Ways to roast your Pumpkin Seeds](#)
- Deer, squirrels or birds may enjoy your left over pumpkin, but you can also compost your pumpkin or simply bury it in a garden bed to rot & provide nutrients.

OTHER DECORATIONS

- Try to make your own decorations! Here are some spooky suggestions on DIY decorations you could try:
 - [Spirit Water Jugs](#)
 - [Tin Can Lanterns](#)
 - [Upcycled Pumpkin Cutting Boards](#)
 - [TP Roll Creepy Candles](#)
 - [Plastic Bag Skeleton](#)
 - [Plastic Water Jug Skeleton](#)
 - [Upcycled Glass Poison Jars](#)
 - [Hula-Hoop Spider Web](#)
 - [Fabric Pumpkin](#)
 - [Upcycle Old Plastic Pumpkins](#)
 - [How to Carve a Tombstone in Upcycled Styrofoam](#)
- If you have kids, have fun making decorations with stuff that normally goes in your recycle bin. Like: egg carton spider or bats, tissue box monster, TP tube monsters or bats, jar lanterns, Juice carton creepy houses and so much more! [Click for some kids craft ideas](#)
- Paper cut outs in windows or on walls are fun too, & can be recycled or reused.
- If you do buy decorations, make sure they are decorations that will last many seasons. Try shopping used 1st, like Resource Depot or thrift stores.
- Be sure to donate decorations or costumes that are in good shape for others to reuse!
- When using candles, try to find soy wax or beeswax candles, many candles are paraffin based which is a petroleum product, when burned they admit carcinogens into the air.





RESOURCE DEPOT

COSTUMES

- Some people wear the same thing every year for Halloween, which saves money, time & resources. But for those of us that want something different every year, be thoughtful with your choices.
- DIY your costume, often you can pull things together you already have in your house, or go thrift shopping for what is needed & many times you can work the items back into regular use after Halloween.
- DIY Costume Tips:
 - * The internet is helpful, decide what you want to do & search it out for upcycled ideas!
 - * Cardboard from all those packages you order can do almost anything you want it to!
 - * Paper mache is also a wonderful way to build a costume.
 - * Makeup & paint can go a long way in making everyday clothes creepy
 - * Save key items from past costumes, because they may come in handy for another costume, like wigs, & props. A cape can be used for Harry Potter, Witch/Warlock, Magician, Wizard, Super Hero, Vampire, Little Red Riding Hood, Grim Reaper, Jack The Ripper, a Devil, Phantom of The Opera, Dementor, Darth Vader, Maleficent, Creepy Caped Person/Creature!
 - * Reference people you already look like!
 - * Find things in your closet that could inspire a costume, like something that could work to be a flower child, farmer, business person, bridesmaid...
 - * Be thoughtful in what you upcycle, can it be donated or recycled when you are done with it?
- If you feel you are not creative & don't have the time & buy costumes from the store, think about having a Halloween Costume Swap with family, friends, school, church, or neighbors, especially if you have kids, this can be fun way to get new costumes, but not spend those big bucks.
- Tips on organizing your own Costume Swap: <https://brightly.eco/halloween-costume-swap/>
- Also Resource Depot has costumes & so do a lot of thrift stores, check them out 1st before you buy new!
- Donate costumes you are done with and that are still in good shape!

TRICK OR TREAT

- For healthier treat try fruit: Mini oranges, apples, boxes of raisins. Or fruit leathers, granola bars, bags of popcorn or pretzels, trail mix, dried fruit.
- For plastic conscious people, find candy that comes in cardboard boxes like Nerds instead of plastic wrapping. Budget friendly, low waste candy suggestions: <https://www.honestlymodern.com/sustainable-and-low-waste-halloween-candy-for-trick-or-treating/>
- Terracycling! You have to pay to do this, but if you want all those wrappers to get recycled check it out: <https://zerowasteboxes.terracycle.com/collections/halloween/products/candy-and-snack-wrappers-zero-waste-pouch>
- For animal by-product free treats that are vegan, take a look at the link below & most you can find at your local grocery stores: <https://brightly.eco/vegan-candy/>
- You can also look for candy that is fair-trade, palm oil free, made in the USA, or made locally.
- Only go homemade with treats for parties or to give to friends, & make sure they are labeled well, so people know what is in them for allergies.
- Some people opt to give away toys, but those mainly come in bulk, are made of plastic & made overseas, so be thoughtful in what you buy, so much of that stuff ends up being donated to Resource Depot because people do not want it. Same goes for goody bags from Halloween parties. Think twice before you buy.
- For trick or treaters, make sure they have something reusable to gather their candy in, like cloth bags or wove baskets.



RESOURCE DEPOT

PARTIES

- Consider outdoor events for COVID Concerns, or make masks part of everyone's costume.
- Again upcycle those decorations, or just use what you always use. Don't try to have special decorations for a party.
- Use real plates, cups or cutlery! If you can't do that, buy paper, or make sure people recycle, they also have bamboo party plates & cutlery. It may be odd, but you can even ask party guests to bring their own cups from home (this also helps keep them from mistaking other people's glasses).
- Make the event a pot luck, to save on food costs & food waste.
- Always have trash cans & recycle bins by each other & signage can help! Don't be afraid to add a compost bin if you do that!
- Link for other helpful Eco party idea: <https://greenecofriend.co.uk/eco-friendly-halloween/>

REMEMBER THE KEY TO BEING MORE ENVIRONMENTALLY CONSCIOUS

IS TO TRY, YOU DO NOT HAVE TO BE PERFECT!

Watch our webinar on this topic on Youtube:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EZbrtB9v8Rk>

Be sure to check out our website's virtual Resources for more green tips:

<https://www.resourcedepot.org/virtual-resources>

