



Stew and Donny and the Halloween Machine Song

Present

The Top Ten Halloween Safety Tips

Twenty five years ago, when we first wrote The Halloween Machine, the world wasn't quite as "interesting" as it is today. Halloween still presents loads of good-fun opportunities for children of all ages. But, it's well known that young trick or treaters always warrant our safety concerns. With this in mind we've put together this free eBooklet, The Top Ten Halloween Safety Tips.

Seeking safety for our children is more important than ever before. We hope that The Halloween Machine Song might play some small part in that effort. Please take a look through these ten, simple tips. You're probably already familiar with many of them and the list is by no means all-inclusive. Ultimately, nothing replaces the love, care and supervision provided by parents.

We wish you all a safe and happy Halloween

Stew and Donn

THE TOP TEN HALLOWEEN SAFETY TIPS

Halloween Safety Tip #1

Carve safely

Are your children begging to carve pumpkins? Make Halloween safety a family affair.

- **Decorate with markers or paint.** Let young children draw faces on pumpkins with washable markers or child-friendly paint. Leave any true carving to an adult.
- **Use candles with care.** Place candlelit pumpkins on a sturdy surface away from curtains and other flammable objects. Never leave lit pumpkins unattended. Better yet, light pumpkins with flashlights or battery-operated flameless candles instead.

Halloween Safety Tip #2

Get clever with costumes

From furry animals to princesses and superheroes, choosing costumes wisely is an important part of Halloween safety.

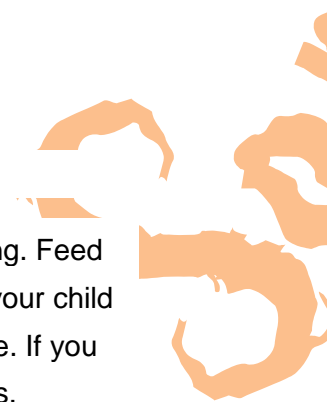
- **The brighter the better.** Whether you buy a costume or make one yourself, choose bright colors and flame-retardant materials. If your child will be trick-or-treating outdoors after dark, attach reflective tape to his or her costume.
- **Size it right.** In case it's chilly outdoors, make sure your child's costume is loose enough for warm clothing to be worn underneath — but not long enough to cause tripping. Avoid oversized shoes and high heels.
- **Skip the masks.** A mask can obstruct your child's vision, especially if it slips out of place. Use kid-friendly makeup instead.
- **Limit accessories.** Pointed props — such as wands, swords and knives — may pose safety hazards.

Halloween Safety Tip #3

Trick-or-treat with care

The promise of Halloween candy may leave stars in your child's eyes, but Halloween safety still rules.

- **Get in on the fun.** Accompany trick-or-treaters younger than age 12. Pin a piece of paper with your child's name, address and phone number inside your child's pocket in case you get separated. Encourage older kids to trick-or-treat with a group of friends, parents or older siblings. Make sure someone in the group carries a flashlight with fresh batteries.
- **Stay close to home.** Don't allow your child to go door to door in an unfamiliar neighborhood.
- **Set ground rules.** If your child will be trick-or-treating without you, establish a route and set a curfew. Review safety rules, including staying with the group, walking only on the sidewalk, approaching only clearly lit homes and never going inside a home. You may want to give your child a cell phone for the evening should he or she need to contact yo

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- Inspect the treats carefully. Don't let your child snack while he or she is trick-or-treating. Feed your child a healthy snack before heading out, and inspect the treats before allowing your child to dive in. Discard anything that's not sealed, has torn packaging or looks questionable. If you have young children, weed out gum, peanuts, hard candies and other choking hazards.
 - Ration the loot. If your child collects gobs of goodies, dole out a few pieces at a time and save the rest. You may even ask your child if he or she would like to swap some — or all — of the candy for something else, such as a special toy, book or outing. You might also suggest donating excess candy to a food shelf or other charity.
 - Plan a party. Consider planning a trick-or-treat party with a couple of neighbors instead of house-to-house door knocking. Decorate the garages, have a costume contest, and plan games and prizes.

Halloween Safety Tip#4

Stay safe and sweet on the home front

If you'll be handing out treats, make sure you're ready for trick-or-treaters.

- **Clean up.** Put away anything trick-or-treaters could trip over, such as garden hoses, toys, bikes and lawn decorations. Clear wet leaves, snow or other debris from the sidewalk.
- **Turn the lights on.** Replace any burned-out bulbs to ensure good visibility at the walkway and front door.
- **Control your pets.** Take no chances that your pet might be frightened and chase or bite a child at your door.
- **Consider sugar substitutes.** Instead of handing out sugar-laden treats, try stickers, glittery pencils, rubber insects or colored chalk.

If you'll be driving on Halloween, watch for children who might pop out between parked cars. Be especially careful entering or leaving driveways and alleys. Extra caution can help ensure Halloween safety for everyone.

The next section highlighting Tips #5 thru #10 was taken from the Food and Drug administration web site. We encourage parents and children alike to visit the site and review their many additional suggestions for child safety.

Being parents ourselves, we take this subject of child safety seriously and we know all of our wonderful Halloween Machine Song listeners do too.

Halloween Health and Safety Tips

#5, #6, #7, #8, #9 and #10 (copied from www.fda.gov)



For many people, autumn events like Halloween and Harvest Day are fun times to dress up in costumes, go trick-or-treating, attend parties, and eat yummy treats. These events are also opportunities to provide nutritious snacks, get physical activity, and focus on safety.

Below are tips to help make the festivities fun and safe for trick-or-treaters and party guests.

Going trick-or-treating?



Swords, knives, and similar costume accessories should be short, soft, and flexible.

Avoid trick-or-treating alone. Walk in groups or with a trusted adult.

Fasten reflective tape to costumes and bags to help drivers see you.

Examine all treats for choking hazards and tampering before eating them. Limit the amount of treats you eat.

A vertical graphic with the word 'HALLOWEEN' in large, bold, black letters. Each letter is contained within a square that has a yellow border and a dark orange background. The squares are stacked vertically.

HALLOWEEN

Hold a flashlight while trick-or-treating to help you see and others see you. Always WALK and don't run from house to house.

Always test make-up in a small area first. Remove it before bedtime to prevent possible skin and eye irritation.

Look both ways before crossing the street. Use established crosswalks wherever possible.

Lower your risk for serious eye injury by not wearing decorative contact lenses.

Only walk on sidewalks whenever possible, or on the far edge of the road facing traffic to stay safe.

Wear well-fitting masks, costumes, and shoes to avoid blocked vision, trips, and falls.

Eat only factory-wrapped treats. Avoid eating homemade treats made by strangers.

Enter homes only if you're with a trusted adult.

Never walk near lit candles or luminaries. Wear flame-retardant costumes.

Halloween Safety Tip #6

Expecting trick-or-treaters or party guests?

- Provide healthier treats for trick-or-treaters such as low-calorie treats and drinks. For party guests, offer a variety of fruits, vegetables, and cheeses.
- Use party games and trick-or-treat time as an opportunity for kids to get their daily dose of 60 minutes of physical activity.
- Be sure walking areas and stairs are well-lit and free of obstacles that could result in falls.
- Keep candle-lit jack-o'lanterns and luminaries away from doorsteps, walkways, landings, and curtains. Place them on sturdy tables, keep them out of the reach of pets and small children, and never leave them unattended.
- Remind drivers to watch out for trick-or-treaters and to drive safely.

Defeat these Top 5 Halloween Hazards

- During the Halloween season, fatalities and injuries have the tendency to increase.¹With more than 36 million children out trick-or-treating, here are some additional resources to help keep kids out of the emergency room.
- **Tip #7 Pedestrian-Car Collisions:** Child pedestrians are four times more likely to be killed on Halloween than on any other evening of the year.² Parents need to accompany children, make sure they are visible, and model safe pedestrian behaviors themselves.
- **Tip #8 Non-Intersection Crossings:** Well over half of the Halloween pedestrian fatalities involving children occur at non-intersections, suggesting that mid-block crossings, darting out from between parked cars and other unexpected crossing behaviors may have contributed to their deaths.³
- **Tip #9 Drunk Driving:** Drunk driving over Halloween has surpassed drunk driving on New Year's. On Halloween night in 2008, 58% of all highway fatalities involving a driver or a motorcycle rider were alcohol-related.⁴
- **Hazard #10 Falls:** Falls are one of the leading causes of injury on Halloween night. While it is important to make sure costumes are "fall-proof," it is also important to clear walkways, yards and driveways of tripping hazards in advance and to carry a flashlight.
- **Tip #11 Burns and Eye Injuries:** Medical professionals cite an increase in eye and burn-related injuries on Halloween night. Paying attention to children's costumes, using face paint instead of masks and using "soft" toy weapons can help reduce these risks.
- 1. According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration
 2. CDC Wonder, "Childhood Pedestrian Deaths During Halloween -- United States, 1975-1996, MMWR 46(42); 987-990 (7/24/1997)
 3. National Centers for Disease Control and Prevention as quoted by the Independent-Mail, 10/27/2008, www.independentmail.com/news/2008/oct/27/officials-halloween
 4. According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration

And yes, we fibbed a little in our eBooklet title. There are indeed ELEVEN tips given instead of the 10 claimed in the title. Hey, every rock guitarist knows that 11 is better than 10.

All kidding aside, we hope that these safety tips have provided you with some good ideas that can be easily implemented. Of course, we realize that many of our listeners use these and more safety precautions and we think that is the tops.

Let's all have a Safe and Happy Halloween.

Stew and Donny, Punkin' and The Halloween Machine Song