



Halloween Safety Tips

Halloween may be a fun holiday for kids, but for parents, trick-or-treat time can be a little tricky. Concerns about children's safety whether they are out in the neighborhood or back at home with bags of treats can darken the day more quickly than a black cat; but not to worry! To make Halloween a treat for all, follow these safety tips!

Before Halloween

- Costumes should be flame resistant.
- Costumes should be short enough that children won't trip on them.
- Put reflective tape on costumes and trick-or-treat bags.
- Use makeup instead of masks. If masks are used, make sure the eye holes are big enough to see out clearly to the sides.
- Shoes should fit well and have low heels so children won't fall.
- Make arrangements for a parent or responsible adult to accompany your children.
- Decide what route will be used, try to avoid crossing streets.
- Set reasonable time limits.
- Decide what homes will be visited.
- Many shopping malls offer indoor trick-or-treating for your safety.

During Halloween

- Have children carry a flashlight or glow stick. This helps them to see and to be seen.
- Trick-or-treat in groups.
- Have children walk only in well-lighted areas.
- Only trick-or-treat at homes with porch lights on.
- Follow safety rules for walking
 - *Cross streets at crosswalks or corners.
 - *Look both ways before crossing.
 - *Never step into the road from between parked cars.
 - *Walk on the sidewalk.
 - *At intersections, watch for turning cars.
- Children should not eat any candy until they get home and have it checked.
- Have a cell phone with you. Any suspicious behavior or criminal activity should be reported to the Bowie Police immediately at 301-352-1200 or 911.
- If driving a car, be extra alert for pedestrians.
- To receive trick-or-treaters, leave your porch light on and greet them at the door. Do not encourage them to come inside.

After Trick-or-Treating

- Porch lights should be turned off to discourage unwanted visitors for a couple of hours after trick-or-treat time.
- Check all candy for signs of tampering. Be careful of individuals who will soak or inject Vodka into Gummi Bears.
- All items unpackageged or with open wrappings should be discarded.

