

## Planning A Haunted House

### Things to consider...

**Fire Prevention.** Make sure candles and other hot surfaces are in safe areas where they won't come in contact with streamers, paper, costumes, curtains or anything else that is flammable. An alternative to candles are battery operated flickering lights. Make sure your visitors are also a safe distance from these objects.

**Clear Pathways.** Make sure pathways are free of any tripping hazards including electric cords and props. Also make sure the pathways are wide enough for easy maneuvering for visitors in costume.

**Extra Insurance.** Look into purchasing extra home-owners insurance for the night(s) of your event. Most insurance companies can accommodate your needs. It's better to be safe.

**Extra Help.** If you have a large event you may want to ask an off-duty police officer to help with traffic and large crowds. Call your local police department to let them know of your event so they can have a little extra coverage near your neighborhood.

**Keep It Clean.** Make sure that things like fake blood and other materials that might stain a visitor's costume or clothing are kept at a safe distance to prevent accidents.

**Warning.** Warn visitors before entering if your haunted house is extremely ghoulish. This will help parents decide if your event is appropriate for their children and give people with weak stomachs and heart conditions a chance to rethink their decision.



Happy Halloween  
from  
Warren County Health Services



Warren County Health Services  
Municipal Center  
1340 State Route 9  
Lake George, NY 12845  
Phone: 761-6580 or 1-800-755-8102  
Or  
[www.co.warren.ny.us](http://www.co.warren.ny.us)



A Happy  
Halloween Starts  
With Safety!



Tips to make  
this Halloween  
Spooktacular!

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# The Costumes

Pirates or princesses, gruesome ghouls and friendly ghosts. No matter how simple or how elaborate one thing is sure, kids and adults alike enjoy dressing up for Halloween.



Below you will find tips that make any costume safer.

Tip # 1:

**Flame Retardant Materials**— Make sure that your child’s costume is made with flame retardant materials. Check the tags and packaging to make sure. If your not sure ask.

Tip # 2

**Check the Sight**— Costume eye openings should be unobstructed (no mesh or other coverings). Mask eye holes should be big enough to allow for good peripheral vision.

Tip # 3

**Proper Props**— If your child’s costume comes with props (swords, brooms, scythes) make sure the ends are made of soft flexible materials. Props should be the right size for your child. Props that are to big can cause a child to trip and fall. The costume itself can be a tripping hazard. Make sure your child’s costume isn’t to long and fits properly. Loose or long costume material can lead to falls.

Tip # 4

**Be Seen**— If possible make sure your child’s costume is made of bright reflective materials. If your child’s costume is dark try using reflective tape, flashing lights or a flashlight to make your child visible to cars and other trick-or-treaters.

Tip # 5

**Good Footwear**— Make sure your child’s costume includes good footwear. Sneakers or shoes with non-slip surfaces are best. Laces and straps should be secure and easy to fix. Be cautious of costumes with heels or oversized footwear.

## Trick-or-Treating

Trick-or-treating is what makes Halloween so much fun. Here are some tricks to make sure your child is safe while having fun.

*Trick # 1*

**Supervision**—The key to safety is supervision. Make sure you or another trusted adult or a responsible older sibling (preferably over the age of 14) go with your child while trick-or-treating.

*Trick # 2*

**Plan Your Route**—Before heading out plan your trick-or-treating route. Routes should be in safe, familiar neighborhoods, with lots of street lights and homes where porch lights are on. Let someone know your plans and make sure older children tell you where they’ll be trick-or-treating.

*Trick # 3*

**Start & Stop Times**—Set-up start and stop times and tell your children what these times are. This will prevent arguments when they want to visit just one more house. Give older children a time to return home. Remind them to only visit homes with porch lights on.

*Trick # 4*

**Check It Before You Eat It**—Don’t allow your child to eat any candy while out trick-or-treating. Make sure candy wrappers are sealed. Be extra careful with fruit, popcorn balls and other treats that do not come in wrappers they are more likely to be tampered with. Remember, when in doubt throw it out. Feed your child before going out this will make it easier to stop him/her from eating while trick-or-treating.

*Trick # 5*

**Tricks Are Fun Not Hurtful**—Although most children are not likely to misbehave alone, when they are in groups on a night known for mischievous behavior things can go wrong. Remind older children that tricks are fun for everyone and that egging houses, destruction of property and being cruel animals is not funny and is illegal.



## Make Halloween Healthy!

**Walk Don’t Drive**—By walking house to house instead of driving you reduce traffic and air pollution while increasing safety, meeting neighbors and getting exercise. If you must drive to a neighborhood, park at the end of the neighborhood and walk your trick-or-treating route.

**Eat Dinner Before Heading Out**—By eating before heading out you can make sure your child is getting the nutrition she/he needs. Make sure dinner includes vegetables, fruits and other healthy choices. Eating before heading out means your child will be less likely to gorge on candy later and it makes it easier for you to keep your child from eating treats before they are inspected.

**Treats Don’t Have To Mean Candy**—Pens, pencils, stickers and other small prizes make great substitutes for candy (ask a parent if it’s okay for their child to have the treat if it is a choking hazard). Trail mix, granola bars and other low-fat, low-salt foods can also make Halloween a little healthier for your trick-or-treaters.

**Don’t Stress**—Remember Halloween is a night to dress-up and have fun. If things aren’t perfect that’s okay. Enjoy spending time with family and friends. Laugh, smile and enjoy the costumed kids that visit your door and remember when your out of goodies it’s okay to turn off the light. Don’t feel bad, the kids visiting your street will have enough in their bags.

Tips to make this  
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