

The Community Page

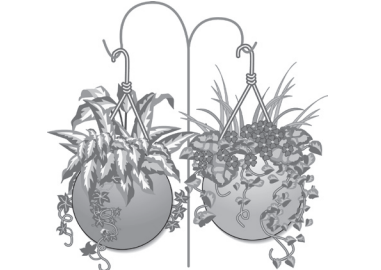
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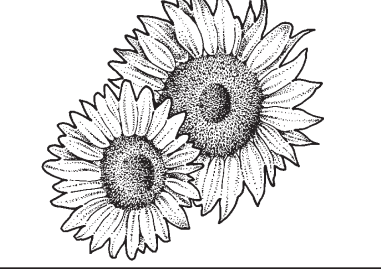


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SAFETY TIPS FOR HALLOWEEN

Halloween is among the most joyfully anticipated holidays for children in the U.S. Carving pumpkins, donning festive costumes and trick-or-treating are popular activities in most communities nationwide. Yet, Halloween can be rife with potential injury dangers, too, ranging from pedestrian accidents to falls to burns to poisonings. Assuring safety while participating in Halloween activities should be top-of-mind for every parent and caregiver in America.

When it comes to childhood injury prevention, repeated and consistent messages are the keys to safety. This research reveals that parents may be placing their children in harm's way by failing to talk to them each and every year about Halloween safety. Given children's limited attention spans, as well as their ever-evolving cognitive abilities, parents must review all the correct behaviors with their children annually to help prevent pedestrian injuries, falls, poisonings and other threats each October. To ensure a safer celebration of Halloween, Safe Kids Worldwide recommends the following tips to parents and caregivers:

- Child Pedestrians
- Children under 12 should trick-or-treat

and cross streets with an adult.

- Always walk on sidewalks or paths. If there are no sidewalks, walk facing traffic as far to the left as possible.
- Cross the street at corners, using traffic signals and crosswalks. Parents should remind children to watch for cars that are turning or backing up.
- Look left, right and left again when crossing and keep looking as you cross. Walk, don't run, across the street.
- Drivers
- Slow down and be especially alert in residential neighborhoods. Children are excited on Halloween and may move in unpredictable ways.
- Anticipate heavy pedestrian traffic and turn your headlights on earlier in the day so you can spot children from greater distances.
- Remember that costumes can limit children's visibility and they may not be able to see your vehicle.
- Reduce any distractions inside your car so you can concentrate on the road and your surroundings.
- Costumes and Treats
- Decorate costumes and bags with reflect

tive tape or stickers and choose light colored costumes to improve visibility.

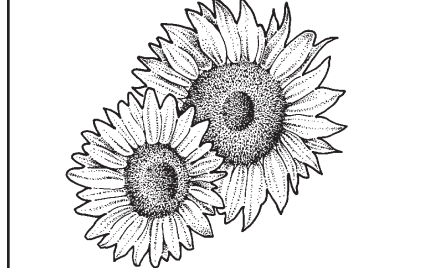
- Choose face paint and make-up instead of masks, which can obstruct a child's vision. Look for non-toxic designations when choosing Halloween makeup.
- Avoid carrying sticks, swords, or other sharp objects.
- Have kids carry glow sticks or flashlights in order to see better, as well as to be seen by drivers. Liquid in glow sticks is hazardous, so parents should remind children not to chew on or break them.
- Check treats for signs of tampering before children are allowed to eat them. Candy should be thrown away if the wrapper is faded or torn, or if the candy is unwrapped.

Safe Kids USA is a nationwide network of organizations working to prevent unintentional childhood injury, the leading cause of death and disability for children ages 1 to 14.

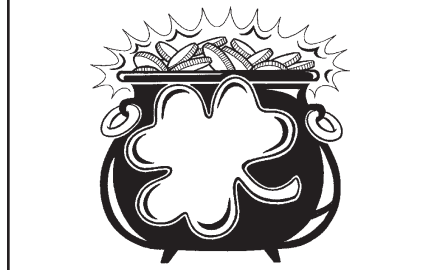
We educate families, provide safety devices to families in need and advocate for better laws to help keep children safe, healthy and out of the emergency room.



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