

HALLOWEEN & PUMPKIN CARVING SAFETY AT HOME

Halloween is a time for fun, but it is also important to keep safety in mind. Take a few simple precautions to help prevent cuts, slips, burns, fires and other avoidable injuries when celebrating Halloween.

HOW TO STAY SAFE AT HOME

- COMMON HAZARDS
- PUMPKIN CARVING SAFETY
- FIRE AND DECORATION SAFETY
- BEFORE TRICK-OR-TREATERS ARRIVE



BC Forest Safety

Safety is **good** business

HALLOWEEN & PUMPKIN CARVING SAFETY AT HOME



KNOW THE COMMON HAZARDS

- Cuts or puncture wounds from knives, carving tools, or slippery pumpkins.
- Burns or fires from candles, matches, lighters, decorations, or jack-o'-lanterns placed too close to flammable items.
- Trips and falls caused by decorations, cords, poor lighting, or cluttered walkways.
- Electrical hazards from damaged lights, overloaded extension cords, or indoor-rated products used outdoors.
- Child safety risks when children use sharp tools or are not supervised around candles, roads, pets, or decorations.

PUMPKIN CARVING SAFETY

- Set up your carving area on a clean, dry and well-lit surface with a stable work surface.
- Make sure your hands, tools and pumpkin are dry before you begin to prevent slipping.
- Use pumpkin carving tools instead of large kitchen knives whenever possible.
- Place a towel or non-slip mat under the pumpkin to keep it steady while carving.
- Cut slowly and carefully, keeping your hands away from the cutting path and always cutting away from your body.
- Kids can help by drawing designs, scooping out seeds or decorating pumpkins, but carving should be left to adults.
- Keep a basic first aid kit nearby in case of minor cuts or scrapes. Seek medical attention if you get injured and the bleeding doesn't stop after applying firm pressure.

FIRE AND DECORATION SAFETY

- Use battery-operated candles, LED lights or glow sticks in jack-o'-lanterns instead of open flames.
- If using real candles, never leave them unattended and keep them away from costumes, curtains, stairs, dry leaves and other flammable materials.
- Store matches, lighters and candles out of the reach of children.
- Inspect decorative lights before use and replace any with damaged cords, cracked sockets, loose connections or broken bulbs.
- Use lights and extension cords that are rated for outdoor use. Avoid overloading outlets or extension cords.
- Keep exits, walkways, stairs and driveways clear at all times.

BEFORE TRICK-OR-TREATERS ARRIVE

- Turn on outside lights and make sure steps, paths and handrails are clearly visible.
- Remove tripping hazards such as hoses, tools, cords, decorations, wet leaves and other clutter from paths and entrances.
- Keep pets away from the door to prevent escapes, bites, or unexpected interactions with trick-or-treaters.
- Place pumpkins and decorations away from the main walking areas.
- Remind drivers in your household to slow down and watch for children, especially between late afternoon and evening.

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