

While the practice of trick-or-treating can be fun and enjoyable for children, it also represents certain hazards and risks. The following Halloween Safety Tips have been developed by the American Crime Prevention Institute.

Children's Costumes

- Costumes should be bright and reflective. Shoes should fit well and costumes should be short enough to prevent tripping, entanglement or contact with flame.
- Costumes, wigs and accessories should be flame resistant.
- Eye holes in children's costumes should be large enough for good peripheral vision. Avoid cumbersome masks. Use make-up instead if possible.
- Add reflective tape or striping to costumes and/or trick-or-treat bags for greater visibility.
- If the weather is cold, children should have warm clothing under their costumes.
- When purchasing special Halloween makeup, the packages should contain ingredients labeled "Made with U.S. Approved Color Additives," "Laboratory Tested," "Meets Federal Standards for Cosmetics," or "Non-Toxic." Follow manufacturer's instructions for application.
- Costume props such as toy guns or swords should be made of pliable material.
- Realistic replica firearms should never be used.
- Use battery powered lanterns or chemical light sticks instead of candles in decorations or costumes.
- All children and their escorts should have flashlights with fresh batteries.

Tips for Trick-or-Treating

- A parent or responsible adult should always accompany young children when they are trick-or-treating.
- The official recommended Trick-Or-Treat hours in the City of Berwyn are from 4:00-6:30 PM.
- Children should trick-or-treat in a group, preferably with a responsible adult.
- Advise children they should never enter a stranger's home.
- Children trick-or-treating should obey all traffic and pedestrian regulations.
- Children should only trick-or-treat in well-known neighborhoods at homes that have a porch light on.
- Children trick-or-treating should remain on well-lit streets and always use the sidewalk. Never cut across yards or use alleys.
- Instruct children not to eat any treats or candy until it has been brought home and inspected.
- Children should be told to walk, don't run, from house to house.
- When trick-or-treating, don't allow children to bicycle, roller-blade or skateboard.
- Children should be strongly warned not to approach unfamiliar pets and animals.

After Trick-or-Treating

- Unpackaged trick-or-treat items such as popcorn or small candies should be discarded.
- All fruit should be cut and carefully examined before eating.
- Examine all treats for choking hazards.

Halloween Safety Tips for Pet Owners

- Don't leave your pet in the yard on Halloween. Pets can be teased, injured, stolen or even killed.
- Chocolate is poisonous to many pets. Tin foil and cellophane candy wrappers can be hazardous to pets if swallowed.
- Be careful of pets around a lighted pumpkin. They may knock it over or get burned.
- All but the most social pets should be kept in a separate room during trick-or-treating.
- Be careful your dog or cat doesn't dart out through an open door.