

HALLOWEEN HOME SAFETY

Avoid a Scare this Halloween by Staying Safe

Everyone wishes for a safe and happy Halloween but, amid all the excitement of decorating, dressing up, and dashing door to door for treats, safety can sometimes be overlooked.

In addition to exercising caution while on the roads, safety around the home is also important. Here are a few tips to consider to help protect your home, your family and others at Halloween:

- Use candles with caution. Jack-o'-lanterns are plentiful at Halloween. However, while pumpkins with lit candles inside may look festive on your deck or walkway, they can also pose a fire hazard. Consider using a battery operated tea light to illuminate your jack-o'-lantern instead.
- Extension cords are often used to inflate or light up scary Halloween characters or play spooky sound effects. Ensure that cords do not pose a tripping hazard to trick-or-treaters or a fire hazard to your home. If necessary, cover or secure extension cords to prevent people from tripping over them, and make sure you use a heat resistant material, such as duct tape, to minimize the risk of a fire. Before using an extension cord, always check to confirm it is certified for outdoor use and plugged into a protected ground fault interrupter (GFI) outlet.
- Adding fog machines to fill the night air with smoke is a great way to set an eerie mood and put a real chill into your visitors. However, they can also make navigating pathways and stairs a frightful experience! Use caution and common sense when using these machines to prevent excited trick-or-treaters from being injured.
- Halloween décor such as homemade phony coffins on the front lawn make for great attractions. Ensure they are safely constructed and securely positioned so that they do not pose a safety hazard to children.
- When buying lights, check for certification from the Canadian Standards Association or Underwriters Laboratory of Canada. Also check for damaged wires and don't overload electrical outlets.
- Keep the entrance to your home adequately lit. For the safety and protection of all trick-or-treaters, simply leave a note to advise you are out of treats and always leave lights on around your home.

A few measures like these will help ensure this Halloween is safe and enjoyable for all.

For more information on home safety, please visit www.johnson.ca

