

How To Make Your Own Spooky Halloween Crafts

HOW TO MAKE YOUR OWN SPOOKY HALLOWEEN CRAFTS

SELECTED TIPS - 93 PAGES!



93 Pages!

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History Of Halloween

Many people think that Halloween is a “devil worshipping” holiday celebrated by people who don’t believe in God, but the truth is that Halloween really has its basic origins in the Catholic Church. Halloween means “All Saints Eve” or “All Hallows Eve”.

All Saints Day is a religious holiday observed by the Catholic Church and set aside for worship of all the saints in heaven. They used to consider it with all solemnity as one of the most significant observances of the Church year

The American origin of Halloween extends further from the Celts celebration of Samhain (pronounced sow – in) which is a Druidic festival made to celebrate the end of the harvest. As with a lot of Celtic lore, faeries were thought to be extremely active at this time as they ushered in the winter.

Celts believed that on the night before the “new year”, the boundary between the worlds of the living and the dead became blurred. On the night of October 31, they celebrate Samhain. It was on this day that they believe the ghosts of the dead returned to Earth causing trouble and damaging crops.

Celts felt that the presence of the otherworldly spirits made it easier for the Druids – Celtic priests – to make predictions about the future. For a people entirely dependent on the natural world, which could be quite volatile, these prophecies were an important source of comfort and direction during the long, dark winter.

During the celebration, the Celts wore costumes – typically consisting of animal heads and skins – and they tried to tell each other’s fortunes. They would build huge sacred bonfires where people gathered to burn crops and animals as sacrifices to the Celtic deities.

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When the celebration was over, they re-lit the fires in their hearths which they had put out earlier that evening. The fires would be re-lit with flame from the sacred bonfire to help protect them during the coming winter.

Halloween Around The World

Ireland

The belief is that Halloween originated in Ireland and, as we've said previously, was known as "Samhain Night". This festival celebrated the end of the harvest season and ushered in the winter.

They spent the evening of October 31st dressed in costume celebrating around bonfires and paying homage to the Druid Gods that were hoped to keep them safe throughout the long winter.

Today, in Ireland, adults and children dress up as creatures from the underworld. The costumes range from ghosts, ghouls, zombies, witches, and goblins. They light bonfires and enjoy spectacular fireworks displays even if in some places fireworks are illegal.

The children walk around knocking on the doors of neighbors to gather fruit, nuts, and sweets for the Halloween festival. At one time, salt was sprinkled in the hair of the children by their neighbors in order to protect them from evil spirits.

Houses are decorated with carved pumpkins or turnips that sports scary faces and a candle is placed inside the hollowed out fruit to light and decorate. The Irish also decorate their homes to celebrate this holiday.

Many people still bake a traditional Halloween cake called a barmbrack which is fruit bread. Each member of the family gets a slice of the cake. Great interest is taken in this tradition as there is a piece of rag, a coin, and a ring in each cake.

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If you get the rag, then your financial future is doubtful. If you get the coin, you can look forward to a prosperous year. Finally, if you are lucky enough to get the ring, it is a sure sign of impending romance or continued happiness.

Halloween Crafts

Even if you've never been much of a crafter, you can still make some great Halloween crafts that you can use to decorate your home and make the holiday festive. Halloween evokes images of spooky ghosts, black cats, evil witches, and flying bats. You can recreate many of these images with fun and easy crafts.

The best part about making Halloween crafts is that it is something that the whole family can do and it can give you some time to spend together. Many Halloween crafts can be made by almost any age child. Even your toddler can help out and learn new skills like cutting, drawing, and coloring.

We are going to give you a whole bunch of ideas for Halloween crafts. Many of them can be made out of common household items which means you won't have to spend a lot of money on craft supplies. Believe it or not, you can turn an ordinary plastic grocery bag into a spooky ghost and an egg carton into an ominous bat.

Of course, you will need a few crafting supplies from the store. We suggest keeping some on hand for future craft projects as well. Here is a list of basic craft items that are good to keep a supply of:

- Various colors craft paint – black, white, green, orange, etc.
- Pipe cleaners
- Googly eyes
- Hole punch
- Fun foam in various colors

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Of course, most households will have standard craft supplies like scissors, tape, and glue. If you don't have these, though, you will need them as well. If you find that you will really get into crafting, this list will grow, but this is enough to get your started.

One thing we want to tell you about crafting with kids is to be patient with them and don't expect perfection from their work. The whole idea of crafting with kids is to spend time with them and have fun.

Bats And Spiders And Such

Egg Carton Bat

For this craft, you will need a clean egg carton. You can use either a Styrofoam or a cardboard one, but if you want to hang your bats outside from the trees, the Styrofoam ones will be better.

Cut out three of the egg cups keeping them attached together. Cut out the front and back of the two outside cups. This will form your bat's wings. Paint your bat black with craft paint. Again, if you want to hang them outside, you will want to use waterproof paint. Once the paint is dry, you can paint on a scary face with white paint or glue on googly eyes.

Use a pair of scissors to poke a hole in the top of the middle cup. Take a piece of string and make a knot large enough that it won't pull through the hole and put the string in the hole. Now you have your egg carton bat ready to be hung from wherever you want. Make several of these for maximum spookiness!

Egg Carton Spider

You can also use an egg carton to make a spider. For this craft, you just need to cut out one of the egg cups from the carton. Paint your spider black and wait for it to dry. Paint on eyes or glue googly eyes on him.

Use the tip of pointed scissors to make four small holes on each side of the egg cup. Insert a pipe cleaner in each of the holes and twist the pipe cleaners from the inside to form a knot of sorts so the pipe cleaners do not come out of the holes. Then bend the legs so your spider will stand on his own.

Spooky Ghosts

Balloon Ghost

For this easy craft, you need two plastic grocery bags, a white balloon, and some tape (we prefer black duct tape because it holds better!) First, take and blow up the balloon tying a knot in the end of it.

Cut off the handles of the grocery bags and any writing on the bag. Starting at the open end of the bag, cut into one inch strip up to about an inch away from the bottom of the bag where the seam is.

With the knot of the balloon at the top, tape one of the bags to the front of the ghost and one to the back. Draw a spooky face on your ghost. Use a length of string to tie around the knot for hanging. You can also use a rubber band that is cut in half for hanging as well.

Garbage Bag Ghosts

Use balloons, white garbage bags (rectangle or square shaped), duct tape, and fishing line or thread. Blow up the balloon to about 6 inches. Figure out where you want your ghost to hang and cut 3 appropriate lengths of fishing line (leave yourself a little extra to play with).

Attach a piece of fishing line or thread to the top, rounded part of the balloon using plenty of duct tape. Make sure it is secure. Open the garbage bag and roll down the sides so the inside, bottom is exposed. Make a hole in the center of the bottom of the garbage bag just big enough for the fishing line or thread to fit through.

Grab the end of the fishing line that is attached to your balloon, and thread it through the hole. Pull it all the way through the hole so the bottom of the garbage bag rests against the balloon. Roll the sides back down so the balloon is in your garbage bag. Cut a smaller piece of fishing line or thread and loosely tie it around the bag where the balloon is to hold it in place. Don't pull it tight! Use a magic marker to make a face on the bag where the balloon is. I have also cut eye and mouth shapes out of construction paper and glued them in place. Tie or tape the other

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pieces of fishing line to the bottom corners of your garbage bag. These will be the ghost's arms. Hang your ghost by tying up the loose ends of the 3 pieces of fishing line!

Outside Decorations

Tombstones

These can be made in a couple of ways. You could get some wood and use a jigsaw to cut them into the shape of a rounded tombstone. Then get some black and gray paint to paint them. Use white or black paint – depending on which you used to paint: white for black background and black for gray background – and write funny sayings about your family.

You can also just put your family's individual names and R.I.P. (rest in peace) or something like that. Use your imagination and be creative. To insert them in the ground, all you need to do is get long screws and screw them into the bottom of the tombstone leaving a large part of it sticking out. Then they can go into the ground and not fall over.

You can also do the same thing with heavy duty cardboard and make them the same way. If you use heavy duty cardboard, make sure you spray them with a sealant to keep them from collapsing in wet weather.

To put in the ground, all you need to do is cut a wire hanger into pieces and insert into the cardboard leaving a portion of the wire sticking out. Then push them into the ground to secure.

You can also experiment around with other materials like Styrofoam, moldable plastic, and anything else you think might work. It's all up to you since these are easy and fun to have in the yard.

Some ways to make your tombstones look like they are in a graveyard are easily made with things you can find around the yard. Of course, you could make a small mound of dirt in front of the tombstone. You can also use some mulch spread out over a large black trash bag which will provide a nice, musty smell to go along with the Halloween sights and sounds.

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Lighting of your tombstones can make a big difference. You want passers-by to see your graveyard, so put out a few lights to highlight your creativity. Insert a directional light fixture (with a blue light) 8 -12 inches in front of the tombstone. Cover the back of the light fixture with aluminum foil so that it won't reflect back on the viewers. The aluminum foil is spray painted brown and covered with mulch to hide the fixture.

Adorn the grave with dead flowers, fake hands, spiders, monster masks on wig heads or other spooky items. Be sure to have some spider webs around the tombstones. You can buy these in spray form at many discount stores. In fact, dead flowers can really make your "graveyard" special, so be on the lookout in your own yard as well as others for flowers that have withered and died.

Make sure you get permission to take the flowers. You can also check with local florists to see if they have any dying flowers they want to get rid of.

If you are really brave, you can dumpster dive for these flowers, but don't get caught. This is illegal, so we don't condone this. But, on the down low, it's a great way to get some really great dying flowers to really give your graveyard the authenticity it deserves!

Edible Crafts

Edible Fingers

- 5 hot dogs
- 1 package refrigerated biscuit dough
- 10 sliced almonds

Preheat oven to the temperature on the biscuit package. Separate biscuit dough into individual pieces. Roll and stretch a biscuit until flat.

Cut each hot dog in half. Lay a half of hot dog in the center of a flattened biscuit and roll dough around the hot dog until it is enclosed in the biscuit. Place wrapped hot dot on a cookie sheet. Repeat these steps until you have 10 wrapped hot dogs, aka "fingers".

Place a sliced almond at one end of each wrapped hot dog so it looks like a fingernail. You can also use a toothpick to make knuckle lines. Bake your fingers for about 10 minutes or until golden brown. Serve warm with some ketchup (blood) at the severed end.

Squashed Frogs

- 1 Stick margarine
- 40 Large marshmallows (10 oz. bag)
- 5 Cups corn flakes cereal
- 1/2 Teaspoon vanilla (optional)
- 2 Teaspoons green food coloring
- M&Ms. Plain Chocolate Candy

Melt margarine in large saucepan. Add marshmallows and cook over low heat, stirring constantly until melted and mixture is syrupy. Remove from heat. Add vanilla and food color.

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Mix. Add corn flakes and M&Ms and mix until well coated and bright green. Drop from a tablespoon on a piece of wax paper and cool the globs.

Paper Plate Mask

Halloween season is all about children. Bring a smile to your child's face with a spooky mask in tandem with his disguise. Halloween crafts are indeed fun to make and the best part is that these can be made using simple and easily found material. For instance, try making paper plate masks this time.

Just a little thoughtfulness, creativity, imagination and craft can help you make all sorts of masks, you can think of with way to easy material. This includes the following:

1. White paper plates
2. Construction paper
3. Paint
4. Crayons
5. Scissors
6. Stapler
7. Glue
8. Markers
9. Tinkers like small pom poms (optional)
10. Elastic or string

Envision your child like any animal such as tiger, rat, cat, bat, etc. Then go ahead with an easy mask.

Given below are the tips to make rabbit and pumpkin masks out of paper plates.

1. Rabbit Mask

Take two white paper plates, a pink construction paper, and a small pink pom pom.

To make its ears, color one paper plate from inside or just glue the pink construction sheet at the inside.

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Cut it in to two halves.

Now take another paper plate to make the face. Cut a ¼” wedge from one side. This is where the child's mouth would come.

Further, staple the ears at the top of plate or the mask that is the part opposite to the wedge.

Watch that you place the straight edges facing inside.

Now, cut two eyes on the face. Place these just below the rabbit ears.

For either paint one, or stick on the small pink pom pom right under the eyes. Finally, decorate the mask with crayons and markers. Make whiskers and color just as per your imagination.

To wear the mask, either staple an apt piece of elastic on both sides of the mask. Or you may choose to punch in holes on either sides and tie a string through them.

2. Pumpkin Mask

Draw a scary pumpkin face on the outer side on the paper plate. Cut the eyes, mouth and nose with the help of the scissors.

Now color the whole think orange with decorations of your choice.

Finally, make it wearable with an elastic staple on either sides of the mask, or punching holes and fastening a string through them.

Try thinking “out of the box” and let your creative senses go wild. You shall numerous options to work on in this art!

Happy Halloween!

Halloween Scrapbook Supplies

I always perceived that the only places to pick out good variety of Halloween scrapbook supplies are the local scrapbook supply stores or some online stores. Well, with some research and findings I have surely been proved wrong!

Actually there are a lot many resources to choose from. As making Halloween scrapbooks is becoming a common & growing trend among people of all ages, their supplies are indeed increasing for good.

These new found resources can also help you be really creative and innovative with your scrapbook's pages. Here are a few of these for your benefit:

1. The traditional choices

Halloween scrapbook supplies traditionally continue to come in bulk from the scrapbook supply stores and the online stores.

2. Discount Stores or Deals

Many discount stores these days deal in the scrap booking supplies. Varied cities across the country have bulk of these stores with different names. In my part of the world, we call them Deals. Two very famous chains in my city are –

- i. Nothing Over a Dollar
- ii. The Dollar Tree

These 'deals' sell quite extensive collection of Halloween scrapbook supplies at very cheap price range. They also excel in their collection for the general scrapbook supplies.

3. Online Stores run by Scrap bookers

Many scrap bookers now-a-days have established their own online stores for the supplies. They purchase the material in bulk and sell the same at wholesale prices. At times, here the

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