

ZERO WASTE HALLOWEEN TIPS

Decorations

- Buy durable long-lasting decorations that you can reuse over the years (avoid single use, non-recycleable items).
- Make your own Halloween decorations from materials that are easily recyclable or already lying around the house, such as construction paper, cardboard boxes, cotton balls or branches and leaves from the yard.
- Decorate your home with LED lights. LED lights are energy efficient and do not give off heat like conventional holiday lights, reducing potential fire hazards.

Jack-O-Lanterns

- Try your hand at growing your own.
- Instead of throwing your pumpkin in the trash, turn it into a yummy treat. Turn the flesh into a delicious pumpkin pie, cheese-cake or pancakes and roast the seeds for a light snack or bird feed.
- Compost Jack! Many municipalities offer a curbside pickup or drop-off of pumpkins for composting throughout the Halloween season. Contact the RCBC Recycling Hotline to determine if your municipality is one of them.

Candy

- If you are handing out candy, pick organic treats like lollipops, chocolate or dried fruit. Also look for products that use less packaging or eco-friendly packaging.
- London Drugs has an in store recycling program that accepts back candy bar wrappers. Head to your local London Drugs to participate in the Green Deal. Check the website for more information:
www.greendeal.ca.

Costumes

- The most environmentally friendly costume is one made from second-hand clothes. Check your house or local thrift stores for old sheets, wedding or prom dresses.
- Rent a costume! Rental stores have everything you need, no need to purchase items you will only use once.
- Organize a costume swap with friends or with your kids' school.
- Make your own fake blood and face paint: Mix equal parts of cornstarch and glycerin and add a few drops of food colouring. To make fake blood mix light corn syrup with a little hot water and liquid dish soap, red and blue food colouring and a little milk, be careful - this mixture can stain clothes.
- After you're done with the costume, donate it to a local theatre group or school drama club.

Trick-or-Treating

- Trick-or-treat close to home so you can ditch the car and walk. Not only will you save money on gasoline but it gives you a chance to mingle with neighbourhood trick-or-treaters.
- Avoid plastic disposable bags and opt for cloth bags, like pillow cases, for holding treats.
- Sampling while treating is inevitable. Urge your children to avoid littering, by taking along an extra bag for any garbage or recycling.



**Have a safe and fun
Halloween from RCBC!**

RCBC Contact the Recycling Hotline
Phone: 604-732-9253 or
1-800-667-4321
Email: hotline@RCBC.ca

