

Halloween Decorating Checklist

Plan, set up, check safety and store your display

Use this checklist before shopping, during setup and again after dark. Keep walking routes open and follow all manufacturer instructions for electrical decorations.

1. Planning and supplies

- ☐ Choose the decorating zones and overall theme.
- ☐ Measure doors, windows, railings and yard space.
- ☐ Inventory existing decorations before shopping.
- ☐ Test lights, animated props and inflatables.
- ☐ Replace batteries and gather approved hangers, stakes and weights.
- ☐ Check the weather forecast before outdoor setup.

2. Outdoor setup

- ☐ Clear the yard, driveway, walkway and steps.
- ☐ Position the largest decorations first.
- ☐ Secure props against wind and rain.
- ☐ Keep decorations and cords out of walking areas.
- ☐ Light steps and changes in elevation.
- ☐ Confirm the door, lock, bell and railings remain usable.

3. Indoor setup

- ☐ Keep exits, hallways and stairs open.
- ☐ Stabilize tall or breakable decorations.
- ☐ Keep small pieces, cords and candy away from pets and young children.
- ☐ Keep decorations away from heaters, vents and hot light fixtures.
- ☐ Leave sufficient room on tables and serving surfaces.

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Finish with a nighttime walkthrough, then use the storage section to make next year easier.

4. Power and final review

- ☐ Use outdoor-rated products outside.
- ☐ Remove damaged cords and plugs from service.
- ☐ Protect outdoor connections from moisture and standing water.
- ☐ Keep cords out of doors, windows and walking paths.
- ☐ Set timers or establish a nightly shutoff routine.
- ☐ Complete a nighttime walkthrough from the sidewalk to the door.
- ☐ Confirm house numbers, steps and walkway edges remain visible.
- ☐ Recheck the display after wind or heavy rain.

5. After Halloween

- ☐ Unplug and inspect decorations before packing.
- ☐ Remove batteries from decorations placed in storage.
- ☐ Clean and dry outdoor pieces completely.
- ☐ Coil light strings and extension cords loosely.
- ☐ Label bins by location or decoration type.
- ☐ Note missing or damaged supplies for next year.
- ☐ Store this checklist with the decorations.

Notes for next year

Safety reminder: Use products only where they are rated, remove damaged cords from service, keep exits clear and avoid open flames near decorations or costumes.