



HALLOWEEN CANDY SAFETY TIPS

Here are some helpful tips parents should consider as they send their ghouls and goblins out this Halloween.

- Instruct children not to eat anything they receive until they return home and you have inspected all of it for any signs of tampering. Caution youngsters not to drink any beverages offered to them while trick-or-treating. Emphasize the importance of this without frightening the children and ruining their enjoyment of trick-or-treating
- Give children an early meal before heading out to discourage snacking. If you think children will be tempted to eat their candy before they get home, send them out with a snack in case they get hungry. If you have to, offer them candy from the bowl you will be giving out. Make sure they can tell the difference between your candy and the rest of their candy (perhaps put it in a Zip-Lock baggie!)
- Prevent a tummy ache by limiting 2-3 small pieces of candy at a time. Tummy aches can ruin the fun and are a very common aftereffect of Halloween.
- Examine candy and treats in a room with bright lights as soon as trick-or-treaters arrive home. Do not eat candy that has been unwrapped, opened or looks unusual. Signs of tampering include the following:
 - Lumps or bulges under the wrappers
 - Punctures or pinholes in wrappers or boxes
 - Ripped or loose wrappers
 - Discolored or stained wrappers or boxes
 - Candy that isn't in the original packaging
 - Treats that are in unsealed boxes or partly unwrapped wrappers
 - Mismatched candy in packages containing multiple pieces (look for candies that are a different size or color from all the others)
 - Candy brands or manufacturers that you've never heard of
 - Candy that has a strange or unpleasant smell
 - Candy that has passed its expiration date
- Check with your local medical facilities about x-ray screening for Halloween treats. Some hospitals and doctors' offices offer this free service on Halloween night or the next day.
- Never eat fruit or homemade items given by strangers. You never know what could be in them. Examples include popcorn balls, caramel apples, cookies or brownies.
- Only accept candy that isn't easily unwrapped. Candies such as Tootsie Rolls, hard candies and certain bubble gums with twist-type wrappings can be tampered with more easily than those that are sealed.
- Beware of small treats such as gum, peanuts, hard candies or small toys to young children. These items can be a choking hazard if they get lodged in a child's throat.
- If your children have allergies, make sure to check candy for any problematic ingredients. Nuts are especially prevalent in Halloween candy.
- When in doubt, throw it out.

Look out for Furry Trick-or-Treaters

Keep chocolate candy, raisins and macadamia nuts away from pets,—it is toxic to both dogs and cats, and every year veterinarians receive thousands of calls regarding pets getting into the Halloween candy stash. Hard candies and wrappers can be choking hazards too, so store candy well out of your pet's reach.

Contact police if you find tainted Halloween candy or treats. **Contact the Poison Control Center at 1-800-222-1222** for any questions regarding accidental ingestions.

