

Read these smart tips to help your family enjoy a safe Halloween this season. Find even more Halloween safety tips for people and pets at MaracayHomes.com/Halloween.

- To help prevent children from munching, give them a snack or light meal before they go don't send them out on an empty stomach.
- Know the route your kids will be taking if you aren't going with them.
- If you can't take them, see if another parent or a teenaged sibling can go along.
- Set a time that kids should be home by. Make sure they know how important it is for them to be home on time.
- Explain to children the difference between tricks and vandalism. If kids are caught vandalizing, make them clean up the mess.
- Explain to kids that animal cruelty is not acceptable. Kids may know this on their own but peer pressure can be a bad thing.
- Stop only at familiar houses in your own neighborhood, unless children are accompanied by an adult.

- Make sure that shoes fit well and that costumes are short enough to prevent tripping, entanglement or contact with flame.
- A Halloween mask can limit or block eyesight. Consider non-toxic and hypoallergenic makeup or a decorative hat as a safe alternative.
- When shopping for costumes and accessories, purchase only those labeled flame resistant.
- Check for flower pots, low tree limbs, support wires or garden hoses that may prove hazardous to young children rushing from house to house.
- Obtain flashlights with fresh batteries for all children and their escorts.
- Teach children their home phone number and to how call 9-1-1 if they have an emergency or become lost. Remind them that 9-1-1 can be dialed free from any phone.

TRICK-OR-TREAT SAFETY TIPS

- Let your children know not to cut through yards, back alleys and fields. Stay in well lighted areas.
- Ask your children not to eat any treats until they bring them home to be examined by you.
- Instruct your child to never go into the home of a stranger or get into their car.
- Make sure your child carries a flashlight, glow stick or has reflectors/reflective tape on their costume to make them more visible to cars.
- Secure emergency identification (name, address, phone number) discreetly within Halloween attire or on a bracelet.
- Older children and escorts should wear a wristwatch and carry a cell phone or coins for non-emergency phone calls.

PROTECT YOUR PETS

- Avoid leaving your pets outside in the backyard on Halloween night so they don't become a victim to the occasional prankster or foul play.
- As much as your dog or cat may beg for some of your Halloween candies, always remember that chocolate can be dangerous to them in any amount.
- Ingested candy wrappers can make pets ill or cause death. Don't leave candy around in reach of your pet.
- Don't leave any lighted candles or Jack-O-Lanterns where they could be knocked over by a dog's swinging tail or by a curious cat.
- While costumes are fun for people, be aware that your pets could feel discomfort or stressed if you try to dress them.

AFTER TRICK-OR-TREATING

- Examine all treats and throw away any spoiled, unwrapped or suspicious items.
- Throw out all candy or treats that are homemade.
- Apportion treats past Halloween.
- Make sure items that can cause choking (such as hard candies), are given only to those of an appropriate age.

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