

## Eating Treats

- Kids need to know not to eat their treats until they get home.
- Check out all treats at home in a well-lit area to inspect for harmful objects.

## Tricky Pranks

Halloween is notoriously a night of pranks—toilet papering a house or filling mailboxes with shaving cream are not unusual. Try to get a handle on your children's plan before they go out. Explain to them that while you want them to have a good time, some tricks could hurt other people or vandalize property. Emphasize that you disapprove of vandalism.



Rancho Cordova Police Department  
Sacramento County Sheriff's Department

## Halloween Safety



[www.RanchoCordovaPD.com](http://www.RanchoCordovaPD.com)  
[www.SacSheriff.com](http://www.SacSheriff.com)

Halloween may be a fun holiday for kids, but for parents, trick-or-treat time can be a little scary. Concerns about children's safety—whether they are out in the neighborhood or back at home with bountiful bags of goodies—can cast a spell on the evening's festivities.

Following a few safety tips will ensure that Halloween will be a "howling" good time for all.

### Consider This

Parents and kids can avoid trick-or-treating troubles entirely by organizing a Halloween costume party with treats, games, contests, music, scary stories, and much more. Make your Halloween party the place to be! Schools, fire stations, libraries, even malls in many communities organize "haunted houses" and other festivities for families.

### "Unhaunting" Your House and Neighborhood

- Keep your porch lights on.
- Remove objects from your yard that might present a hazard to visitors.



- Ask your Neighborhood Watch group to patrol the community.
- Get volunteers to help as crossing guards for trick-or-treaters to cross busy streets.
- Drive slowly throughout the neighborhoods.
- Report any suspicious or criminal activity to law enforcement.

### Making Safe Costumes

- Check that costumes are flame-retardant.
- Keep costumes short to prevent trips, falls and other bumps in the night.
- Encourage kids to wear comfortable shoes.
- Try makeup instead of a mask. Masks can obstruct a child's vision.
- Make sure kids wear light colors or put reflective tape on their costumes.

### Trick-or-Treating

- Make sure smaller children are accompanied by an adult and older kids go out with friends.
- Set a time limit for unaccompanied children to check in at home.
- Map out a safe route to trick-or-treat. Remind them not to take shortcuts through backyards, alleys, or playing fields.
- Remind kids not to enter a strange house or vehicle.
- Make sure children carry a flashlight that works.