

Going Green for Halloween

You don't have to be the Incredible Hulk to go green for Halloween.

All over the nation, Americans are buying spooky supplies for the festivities. While some items need to be purchased every Halloween, other products can last year after year.

There are several different ways to have an environmentally green Halloween. Plus, going green can save you some green in your wallet.

Costume Conundrums

Costumes tend to be one of the biggest money traps. Since we all want the best costume ever, we tend to forget that the outfits we buy will most likely only be worn once or twice. Why create so much waste and spend so much money on something that isn't being reused?

Instead of buying a new costume every year, try focusing on key costume pieces that can be accessorized into different ensembles.

Take a simple black dress, for example:

- Add a pointy hat and you've got an instant witch's costume.
- Tie a white apron around your waist and carry a feather duster to create a maid's outfit.
- Or, with the right hairdo and assortment of gadgets, you can turn your black dress into an undercover spy's party gown.

For you guys out there, start off with a nice pair of slacks and matching jacket:

- Create an instant mobster's outfit by adding a fedora, a vibrantly colored dress shirt, and suspenders.
- If you want to go as a mild-mannered reporter, put on a pair of horn-rimmed glasses and carry a notepad.
- To make a police detective's uniform, pin on a shiny badge and attach a pair of handcuffs and a toy gun to your belt.

Décor Decisions

Decorations are the next big ticket item. People pull out all the stops when it comes to making their homes as frightening as possible. While having the scariest house on the block rocks, it's easy to break your budget. Not to mention the amount of waste you create with not only the decorations, but also with their packaging.

When buying decorations, use the following tips as your spooky shopping strategy:

1. Use a List to Avoid Double Trouble:

People tend to buy more decorations if the items are on sale. Although sales are enticing, it's a good idea to make a list of the Halloween decorations you currently own rather than purchasing duplicates.

2. Reanimate Your Decorations Year after Year:

Instead of always buying a bunch of new decorations, consider buying sturdy decorations that will last for many years to come. Try to buy decorations that store well, and increase the longevity of your decorations by storing them in festive plastic coffins, (AKA, storage bins with tight-fitting lids).

3. Steer Clear of the Single-Use Trap

Some decorations, such as banners, streamers, and confetti, look nice, but these items tend to disintegrate shortly after you put them up, so they really aren't a good investment for your wallet or the environment.

Having a Happy Halloween and saving some green just makes sense. Recycling and reusing old costumes is a fun way to let your imagination run wild. Keeping track of the decorations you own and only purchasing ones that can be reused every year will help reduce your garbage, which may help to keep away all the ghastly goblins and ghouls this Halloween.