

# Halloween GUIDE





# Top Candy Picks for 2020

If you thought Halloween candy hit the shelves early this year, you're not wrong. According to CNN Business, candy displays went up months ahead of the holiday because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Candy makers usually make a (chocolate) mint on Halloween. But with the pandemic threatening to cancel the holiday altogether, the industry is putting more of their spooky stockpile out now.

Here are some top sellers and new candies coming to jack-o-lanterns around the country.

**Halloween Twizzlers Orange and Black Cherry Twists.** Snack packs of these festive and tasty treats are coming just in time for Halloween, says Candy Warehouse.

**Glow in the Dark Fun Size M&Ms.** Nothing's better on Halloween than glow-in-the-dark snacks. Combine it with old favorite M&Ms and you've got a winner. Available in peanut and regular milk chocolate.

**Jovy Black Cherry Gummy Bears.** See the dark side of these fun candies with a dark black cherry colored bear.

**Atkinson Pumpkin Spice**



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**Caramels.** Pumpkin spice makes everything nice, including these classic caramels, also available in vanilla and caramel apple.

**Hershey's Skull Halloween Candy Assortment.** This year, manufacturers are even including the bowl. You can get 160 pieces of Hershey's favorites in a fun skull bowl. Also available in pumpkin if skulls are a little too ghoulish for you.

**Zombie Skittles Candy**

**Mix.** It's not braaaaains they're looking for, it's the rainbow of flavor from Skittles.

**Halloween Kit Kat Dark Chocolate Snack Size Bars.** Clad in black wrappers and dark chocolate, these Kit Kats are the perfect treat for mom and dad after a long night of walking around with their little goblins.

**Jelly Belly Candy Corn Snack Packs.** Can't get enough candy corn? Then get

it in jelly bean form with these festive fall snacks.

**Treat Street Lollipop-Poops.** Shaped like the ever-popular emoji, these lollipops are sure to tickle the funny bones of every 12-year-old boy and 12-year-old boy at heart.

**Skittles and Starburst Candy Fun-Size Packs, Sweet and Sour Assortment.** Sweet, sour and everything nice, all in one big bag. Get 150 pieces and fill up your trick-or-treat-

ers' pumpkins with something they're guaranteed to love.

**Sour Patch Kids Zombies Packs.** Sour Patch Kids also gets in on the zombie trend with these individual packs of candies.

**Charms Sour Apple Zombie Pops.** Charms isn't going to be left out either, and they're on the sour trend, too. Pick a bunch of these and your trick-or-treaters will be sweet as pie.



# Non-Candy Halloween Treats

When you're stocking your trick-or-treat bowl, you should also keep in mind that some kids don't want or can't have regular Halloween candy. Here are some ideas for things to add to your stash for the kids.

## GET GLOWING

Hit up your local party store and grab anything that glows. Bracelets, necklaces, bouncy balls, tiny flashlights, temporary tattoos and stickers. If it's little and glows, it goes in the bowl.

## TINY TOYS

You can get these at your local holiday store on the birthday party aisle. Look for bouncy balls, tiny slinkys, rings, anything little hands can grab.

Bonus points if they're Halloween themed, but if they aren't, just choose Halloween-colored assortments, like orange and purple.

## PENCILS, ERASERS, PENCIL TOPPERS AND CRAYONS

These school supplies will give them something to enjoy after the holiday, too.

## BUBBLES

You can get tiny vials of bubbles in Halloween motifs, like witches fingers or ghosts.



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Failing that, grab the tiny white bottles from the wedding supplies aisle at any arts and crafts store and apply a Halloween sticker to each bottle.

## SLAP BRACELETS

These hot accessories from the 1980s and 1990s are back from the dead. Grab them in neon colors or get glow-in-the-

dark ones for a fast favorite.

## MINI PLAY-DOH CANS

Grab a variety of these guys from the toy store and mix them in with your other treats. These are great for tiny tots who may not be able to eat big-kid candy yet. Look for big bags along with the other Halloween goodies in stores.

## MINI HAND SANITIZERS

While they may be tough to find, little pocket-sized hand sanitizers will be a winning gift this year.

## STICKY HANDS

You used to get them out of bubble gum machines. These gooey hands pack a big ick factor, and individually wrapped assortments are a

perfect addition to the treat bowl. Also look for sticky skeletons, ghosts and bats to up the ick factor.

## MINI SLIMES

Speaking of ick, grab tiny cans of slime in the party favors aisle. Go with Halloween colors or snot green. Bonus points for glow-in-the-dark slime.



# Last-Minute Costume Ideas

If you waited until Oct. 30, don't fear. These done-in-a-flash Halloween costume ideas are just for you. No one will ever know you procrastinated.

## SMARTY PANTS

**You will need:** A pair of jeans, double-sided tape and Smarties candy.

**Method:** Attach the Smarties to your pants. That's it. You're done.

## ERROR 404

**You will need:** A white T-shirt, a black Sharpie or stickers, and a geeky sense of humor.

**Method:** On the front of your shirt, write or spell out in stickers ERROR 404: COSTUME NOT FOUND.

## ROSIE THE RIVETER

**You will need:** A denim or chambray shirt, chic 1940s bun and a red bandanna.

**Method:** Put on your shirt and tie that cute vintage hairstyle up with the bandanna. Walk around flexing a lot. Bonus points for equally cute vintage capris or clam diggers and using lots of 1940s slang.

## RAINING MEN

**You will need:** Printed pictures of your favorite hunks, an umbrella, fishing line or twine and absolutely no fear of



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opening an umbrella indoors being bad luck. Alternatively, a rain coat and double-sided tape.

**Method:** If you're using the umbrella, dangle your hotties from the inside on varying lengths of line or twine. If you're using the rain coat, affix your Adonises with double-sided tape. Bonus points for rain boots.

## PINEAPPLE

**You will need:** A yellow dress and green construction paper.

**Method:** Don your sunshine dress and then cut a spiky headdress out of your construction paper. Pop it on your head and you're all done.

## CHIP ON YOUR SHOULDER

**You will need:** T-shirt, bag of

chips, double-sided tape.

**Method:** Attach the chips to the shoulder of the shirt. You're finished.

## SELF-PORTRAIT

**You will need:** A fancy outfit and a fancy frame (try the thrift store).

**Method:** Get all dolled up and walk around holding the frame and vogueing.

## THE 1990S

**You will need:** A flannel shirt, Doc Martens, ripped jeans and middle-parted hair. Accessorize with a floppy disk and Clearly Canadian.

**Method:** Get dressed. Carry around your favorite 1990s accessories and say things like "home skillet." Bonus points for CDs of any variety, but especially an AOL CD.



# Scarify your House

Halloween rivals only Christmas when it comes to outdoor decorations. This year, the festivities are going big at home. Hold on to your cauldrons. It's time to get spooky.

## VINTAGE HALLOWEEN TREES

Remember when those vintage ceramic Christmas trees your grandma had made a big comeback? This year, they're going haunted with glossy back trees topped with pumpkins and festooned with orange and purple lights.

## BIIIIIG INFLATABLES

The whir of air blowers drowns out any shrieks and screams in the neighborhood this Halloween. Look for giant creepy crawlies like huge spiders, dragons and ghosts. And these do more than just blow up and sit there. Spiders lift their legs and have glowing eyes. Dragons breathe smoke and ghouls come with eerie glowing lanterns. Get your extension cords ready and go to town.

## WINDOW CLINGS

We've gone way beyond happy little pumpkins. If you've got a gory itch to scratch, look for blood splatter clings, complete with bloody smears and handprints. You



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can get footprints for the front walk, too.

## DOOR MOUTH DECORATIONS

If you're going for scary but maybe not nightmare-inducing (looking at you, blood splatter window clings), hit the stores for kits that make your doorway into a monster mouth, with eyes above the frame and teeth framing the entry.

## FAIRY LIGHT WITCH HATS

String them up in your trees, bushes or along the front of your house for a fun look. Alternatively, get strands of color-changing LEDs and make them all orange or all purple, then leave them up for the holiday season.

## SKELETONS GALORE

We've gone beyond the normal human skeletons. We've got dog skeletons, cat skele-

tons, snake skeletons, monkey skeletons, flamingo skeletons, parrot skeletons and even unicorn skeletons now. Available in lit and unlit, moving and not, talking and silent.

## ANIMATRONICS

If you've got the nerve, they've got the motion-sensored animatronic spooky decoration for you. There's everything from bats to zombies out there. Some hang

from trees and some hang out on tables. All of them will scare the daylight out of anyone who dares approach.

## WREATHS

Here's an old standby that gets new life with things like light-up eyeballs. Look for others that are made from a skeleton stretched into a circle or one made from a thousand spiders and their webs. Eeeeek, indeed.



# Halloween Safety

This year, it's more than the usual stories about candies with surprises inside and drivers not watching out for trick-or-treaters on foot.

This year is 2020. There's also COVID-19 to consider when it comes to your Halloween plans. Keep reading for thoughts on staying safe and staying well this Halloween.

## OBEDIENCE LOCAL ORDINANCES

It's normal for cities and towns to set their own trick-or-treat hours or even days that aren't Oct. 31. Listen to local authorities when it comes to whether you can trick-or-treat or have a party this year. IF you do get together, practice social distancing and good hand hygiene.

One idea is to place the bowl of candy at the end of your driveway while you sit more than 6 feet away to watch the ghouls and goblins parade by. Another is having a Halloween parade where kids dress up and drive around the neighborhood. Either way, listen to what the people in charge say.

## MASK UP, AND NOT JASON

Go ahead, get all the mask jokes out of your system. Because this is a deadly serious issue. Plan now for your



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Halloween costume to include a CDC-approved face covering of more than one layer (either a disposable surgical mask or a reusable mask with more than one layer of fabric). Start planning now to find those in Halloween colors and patterns.

## USUAL SAFETY PRECAUTIONS

Aside from the coronavirus, you do still have the usual Halloween safety reminders. Bring flashlights and lots of glow-in-the-dark gear so that drivers can see you after dark. Have an adult check the candy

before the kiddos chow down. Make sure costumes are fire resistant and the makeup safe to use. Test your makeup in a small area first to make sure it doesn't cause any irritation. Kids under 12 should trick-or-treat with an adult. Make sure kids can walk easily in their

costume so they don't trip and fall and that they can see out of their masks. Use bug spray if you live in a rural area or in an area where it's still warm at Halloween.

A special measure for this year: Bring and frequently apply hand sanitizer.



# Halloween Movies

Planning on staying in this Halloween? Here are some movies to queue up for an all-night fright fest.

## **HOCUS POCUS (1993)**

After 300 years of slumber, three sister witches are accidentally resurrected in Salem on Halloween night, and it is up to three kids and their newfound feline friend to put an end to the witches' reign of terror once and for all.

**Starring:** Bette Midler, Sarah Jessica Parker, Kathy Najimy

**Streaming on:** Disney+

## **HALLOWEEN (1978)**

On Halloween night, little Michael Myers slaughtered his sister. But for the last 15 years, town residents have rested easy, knowing that he was safely locked away in a mental hospital – until tonight.

**Starring:** Jamie Lee Curtis, Donald Pleasence, P.J. Soles

**Streaming on:** Roku, Hoopla, Shudder, IndieFlix

## **THE NIGHTMARE BEFORE CHRISTMAS (1993)**

Jack Skellington, the spindly king of Halloween Town, kidnaps Santa Claus and plans to deliver shrunken heads and other ghoulish gifts to children on Christmas morning. But as Christmas approaches, Jack's rag-doll girlfriend, Sally, tries to foil his



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misguided plans.

**Starring:** Chris Sarandon, Danny Elfman, Catherine O'Hara, William Hickey

**Streaming on:** Disney+

## **BEETLEJUICE (1988)**

A young couple drowns and end up as poltergeists in their New England farmhouse, where they can't manage to scare away the insufferable new owners. In desperation, the undead couple turn to an expert.

**Starring:** Michael Keaton,

Geena Davis, Alec Baldwin, Winona Ryder, Catherine O'Hara

**Streaming on:** Fubo, Peacock, DirecTV, Freeform, SYFY, Sling

## **THE CROW (1994)**

Rock guitarist Eric Draven returns a year after he and his fiancée are killed by a gang of criminals, with a hypnotic crow, to exact his revenge.

**Starring:** Brandon Lee, Rochelle Davis, Ernie Hudson, Michael Wincott, Bai Ling

**Streaming on:** Max Go, Hoopla, Cinemax Amazon Channel, DirecTV

## **THE EXORCIST (1973)**

Regan MacNeil, 12, gets a new personality as strange events befall her hometown. In a desperate bid to save her daughter, her mother turns to Father Damien Karras, a troubled priest struggling with his own faith.

**Starring:** Ellen Burstyn, Max von Sydow, Lee J. Cobb, Kitty Winn, Jack MacGowran

**Streaming on:** HBO Max

## **THE CONJURING (2013)**

Paranormal investigators try to help a family terrorized by a dark presence in their farmhouse. Forced to confront a powerful entity, Ed and Lorraine Warren are soon caught in the most terrifying case of their lives.

**Starring:** Vera Farmiga, Patrick Wilson, Lili Taylor, Ron Livingston, Mackenzie Foy

**Streaming on:** HBO Max, Peacock



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This Halloween just doesn't fall on a Saturday. This year, the skies will match your decor with a dazzling full moon. And not just any full moon — a blue moon. Keep reading to find out more.

#### WHAT IS A BLUE MOON?

A blue moon is the second full moon in a month. The two full moons will be on Oct. 1 and Oct. 31. The average lunar cycle is about 29 days, meaning two full moons don't usually happen in the same month. Hence the phrase "once in a blue moon."

It doesn't have anything to do with the color, unfortunately.

"Most blue moons look pale gray and white, indistinguishable from any other moon you've ever seen," said NASA. "Squeezing a second full moon into a calendar month doesn't change the physical properties of the moon itself, so the color remains the same."

That second moon has been called a blue moon since at least 1528, when it was recorded being used in English.

The first moon in October, incidentally, is called the Harvest Moon.

But on Halloween?

Yep. A full moon on Halloween happens once about every 19 years, last occurring in 2001. The next one is set for 2039. Never mind all the full moon Halloween decor. It's actually a pretty rare occurrence.

#### SO WHAT DOES THIS HAVE TO DO WITH HALLOWEEN?

Halloween originates from the ancient Celtic festival Samhain (rhymes with COW-in). Samhain marked the beginning of the dark half of the year, when the nights were lon-

ger and the weather colder. It also marked the end of the harvest season and the end of the Celtic year.

Restive souls of the dead were thought to revisit their former homes seeking hospitality in the moon light, and food and drink were left out to satisfy roaming aos si, or fairies. There's also a tradition of dressing up in costume, perhaps to mimic these roaming spirits; and lighting ritual bonfires mimicked the sun, holding back the darkness of winter. Samhain was also a night of mischief, when people played pranks on one another, perhaps giving rise to today's trick or treating.