



**HOW TO THROW A
HAIR-RAISING
HALLOWEEN PARTY
THAT WON'T SPOOK
YOUR WALLET**

TCP GLOBAL

How to Throw a Howling Halloween Party

Halloween is a great time for parties, whether for adults, teens, or children. You can throw a party that includes all ages, or you can make it more age-specific. No matter how you celebrate Halloween, it's helpful to have some ideas on how to plan the perfect Halloween party. Here are some suggestions and ideas.

Throughout the report, I will include products that can be helpful with your party and decorating. There are affiliate links, meaning if you click on one of the links, I will receive a commission.

1. Themes

A good place to start in your planning is to decide on a theme for your party. Of course it's a Halloween theme, but that's a bit general. Coming up with a unique theme makes your party fun and special, and helps you decide on specifics like food and decorations. Try some of these themes on for size.

Edgar Allen Poe - Pay tribute to one of literature's greatest writers of horror. Choose some of his more famous and chilling works, such as "The Tell-Tale Heart," "The Pit and the Pendulum," and "The Raven" and look to them for inspiration. Decorate with Poe-era items that denote his craft, such as an old typewriter or dip pens and ink wells.

Alfred Hitchcock - While we're on the topic of famous "scary" individuals, why not include Hitchcock? Look to his movies and books for decoration ideas (lots of birds!). You can include one of his movies as part of the party, too.

Cartoon costumes - For kids, why not have a party where everyone comes dressed as his or her favorite cartoon character? You could serve food that corresponds with popular 'toons, like "Krabby Patties" for SpongeBob and "Smurfberries" for Smurf characters.

Haunted places - Decorate your house like an old, haunted castle and show episodes of ghost-themed reality shows. The haunted house theme could be funny (think "Ghostbusters") or more haunting (think The Tower of London).

Historical era - Choose your favorite historical era and build a party around it! Eighteenth-century England, the Middle Ages, the 1980s and everything in between can all be great party themes.

2. Invitations

Now that you have come up with your theme, design your invitations accordingly. Hitchcock- or Poe-themed parties could have invitations with a symbol of the person or one of his works on the invitation (Hitchcock's profile, for instance, or Poe's raven). Cartoon character invitations are easy to make or find. A haunted places theme could feature castle-shaped invitations cut from black card stock with silver or grey gel pen writing (or printer ink).

3. Games

Plan some fun games for everyone at your Halloween party. Why not have a pumpkin carving/decorating contest or bob for apples?

4. More Tips

Here are just a few more general tips for planning the perfect Halloween party.

- Give guests favors
- Make sure you have plenty of food and drinks
- Take lots of pictures!
- Make sure children's parties have enough adults to supervise

DECORATIONS

What is a Halloween party without decorations?

Here are some fun decorating Ideas:



Decorate the Inside of Your House

Lamp Covers

You can buy spooky covers for your lamp shades, either white cobweb Types or black lacy ones. Place these on lampshades for a haunted look. Just make sure no fabric is touching the bulb. Speaking of bulbs...



Colored Light Bulbs

It will look extra-spooky to have red, purple, black or orange light bulbs under those lamp covers? Colored light bulbs are usually inexpensive



Black and White Images

Using white paper plates of various sizes, you can make spooky decorations with your computer printer. Print out images of anatomical drawings, skeletons, bats, cats, and so forth. Then cut them out in circles and use glue to mount the images to the paper plates before hanging them on the wall.



Candy Wrappers

Using toilet paper tubes or paper towel tubes cut to shorter lengths, you can make something like crackers. Put candy inside each tube, then wrap in orange, black, or white paper. Tie off the ends with appropriately colored ribbon or curly pipe cleaners. Put Halloween stickers on for a nice effect.



Other Items For Interior Decoration



Decorate the Outside of Your House

Ghosts on Stakes

Using old sheets, shower curtains, or any white fabric, you can create a ghostly legion on your lawn. Drive tomato stakes (or something similar, such as metal fencing rods) into the ground at various places on your lawn. On top of the stakes, mount a Styrofoam ball or wad of newspaper held together by masking tape. Drape the white sheets over this arrangement and draw eyes and a mouth with a black marker.

Dress your ghosts up with hats and other funny or scary accoutrements.



Spider webs

You can purchase these ready to hang on your outdoor shrubbery, windows and doors, or you can stretch cotton balls and place those on bushes and trees. If you have a porch, it can give your entryway a really spooky look. If you like, add plastic spiders in various places on the "webs."



Graveyard

Make your lawn into a temporary graveyard with faux tombstones. These are usually made of lightweight material that is water-resistant and looks remarkably like stone.



Halloween Costume

Halloween Costumes: What's Hot and Trendy in 2017

Ever thought about costume trends? They are kind of like fashion trends - they change with the years. Popular culture influences the subjects and styles of Halloween costumes, inspiring new ones and bringing about new twists on old favorites. So what's hot and trendy in 2017? Here are some tips and ideas.



Movies

So many Halloween costumes are based on the biggest cinema hits, especially the ones from the previous summer. In 2017, many adventure movies and comedies have inspired costumes. You might find some of these character costumes this year:

- Brave, a movie about a princess who is an expert archer and resists her mother's wish that she get married, has inspired some costumes in 2017. Curly red wigs, blue princess dresses, and archery props will probably be seen this year.
- Vampires have always been a Halloween costume classic, but this year, thanks to part 2 of the "Twilight Breaking Dawn" series, the look has evolved. Jason Cullen's unique hair makes for some great wigs, and be ready to see some plastic vampire teeth!
- More beauties and beasts will likely be inspired this Halloween, as Disney releases its 3D version this year. Princesses always abound at Halloween, but this year, look for Belle costumes in particular.
- "The Avengers" provides a new reason for superhero costumes. The Incredible Hulk, Thor, and Iron Man are just some of the Avengers-inspired costumes you'll be seeing in 2017.

- The Penguins of Madagascar returned this summer with a hit movie, so dressing like your favorite penguin or character from the series will be hot and cool!
- "Ted", the hit movie about a guy haunted by a childhood vow, could inspire some funny yet simple costumes. Pull out the old stuffed teddy bears!
- Batman is a Halloween stand-by, but in 2017, following the release of "The Dark Knight Rises," there will likely be a resurgence of Batman (and Cat woman) costumes.

Video Games

Video games change from year to year, too. In 2017, look for some of these game-themed costumes.

- Angry Birds costumes are funny, colorful, and geometric - you'll be seeing some big, angry birds this year as the popular game continues to captivate players.
- Super Mario has been around awhile, but he's as popular as ever. The main character, Mario, has inspired many a costume and this year, he's still trendy.

For more inspiration, look to current events and celebrity gossip. There are all kinds of people in the news who are costume-worthy!



Spooky Recipes for Halloween

Halloween is a great time for serving creative and "gross" foods. Kids' parties and adult get-togethers can both benefit from some creepy food. From freaky finger foods to ghoulish drinks, you can serve up a memorable meal! Here are some spooky recipes for Halloween, from classy and fun to ghastly and delicious!

Cheese and Deli Meats

Cheese and deli meats may not be the scariest foods around, but you can cut these flat foods into Halloween-themed shapes, like ghosts, pumpkins and cats. The more orange the cheese, the better! Then layer them on crackers and add details with black olive slices for spooky hors d'oeuvres.

Mummies-in-a-Blanket

Use your favorite pig-in-a-blanket recipe, but wrap a full-sized hot dog with dough rather than the small weenies. Press peppercorns into the top of the dough for eyes. If you don't have a favorite pig-in-a-blanket recipe, it's quite simple. Just use store-bought breadstick dough and wrap one breadstick's worth of dough around each hot dog. Press in the peppercorns and bake at 375 degrees F for 12 minutes. For a gory effect, dollop ketchup on the mummies-in-a-blanket right before serving.

Bloody Glasses

Grab a tube of red cake decorating gel and apply it to the rims and edges of your guests' cups. You can create a bloody look by letting the gel drip down inside the glass. Apply the red gel after the drink is in the glass. You can use this for kids' drinks or adult beverages.

Witches' Broom

Party guests of all ages will love these! Here is what you'll need to make these witchy treats.

- Sliced cheese (the American kind works best; it holds up a bit better without crumbling)
- Scallions
- Cream cheese
- Straight pretzels, or pretzel rods (you'll need the large variety)




Directions

- Cut the cheese into ribbons about 1/4-inch wide and 4 inches long. Cut the green part of the scallions into ribbons about 4 inches long; place these in a bowl and pour boiling water over them. Steep for 1 minute and remove (this makes the scallion ribbons limp).
- Use the cream cheese to make a "glue" for the cheese strips - cover about 2 inches of one end of the pretzel rod with cream cheese. Then press on the cheese strips all the way around and wrap a green onion strip around the top of the cheese strips to make it look like a broom. Refrigerate until right before serving.

Cheesy Eyeballs

Have you seen those mozzarella balls in the grocery store? Grab some and make them into eyeball snacks. In addition to the mozzarella balls, you'll need sliced pimiento-stuffed green olives and cream cheese. Put a small blob of cream cheese on each mozzarella ball and press on an olive slice. Instant eyeballs! Serve on a tray with crackers and sliced tomatoes.





Throwing a Halloween party can be a lot of fun for both kids and adults alike. Get dressed up, decorate, and eat some party snacks. Most of all, have fun!!!