



# A Sustainable Halloween: Your Guide to a Frightfully Green Spooky Season

Halloween is a time for fun, costumes, and treats, but it can also create a lot of waste. This guide offers tips on how to enjoy the spooky season sustainably without compromising on fun.

## 1. Sustainable Costumes

Instead of buying a new costume that you'll only wear once, try these ideas:

- **DIY & upcycled costumes:** Make your own costumes using old clothes, fabric scraps or thrifted items.
- **Swap costumes:** Organise a costume swap with friends, neighbours or community groups.
- **Try the thrift store:** Shop for second-hand costumes or materials at local op-shops such as Vinnies or Salvos.

## 2. Most Halloween decorations are made from plastic and designed to be disposable. Here are some things to remember:

- **Don't use fake spider webs:** They're not only plastic but also dangerous for birds, who can get caught in them.
- **Plan to reuse:** Opt for decorations that can be reused year after year.
- **DIY decorations:** Involve the kids and get crafty with recycled paper, cardboard and fabric to make spooky ghosts and garlands.

## 3. Sustainable Trick-or-Treating

- **Use reusable bags:** Avoid plastic bags and opt for cloth bags, baskets or pillowcases to collect Halloween treats.
- **Eco-friendly treats:** Offer treats that come in recyclable or compostable packaging. You can also consider healthier, locally-made treats or homemade goodies (if it's safe to do so in your community).
- **Limit plastic-use:** Try to avoid giving out plastic trinkets or single-use plastic toys.





#### 4. Avoid Pumpkin Waste

While pumpkins aren't as common in Australian Halloween celebrations, if you do use them:

- **Compost the scraps:** After carving, compost the pumpkin scraps or save the seeds to roast for a tasty snack.
- **Eat your pumpkins:** Make the most of your pumpkins by turning the flesh into soup, pies, or roasted dishes.

#### 5. Party Planning

If you're hosting a Halloween party, here are some eco-friendly tips:

- **Reusable tableware:** Avoid single-use plastic cups, plates, and cutlery. Use ceramic/glass dishes and kitchenware.
- **Sustainable food:** Use locally seasonal foods. You could incorporate fresh berries, citrus fruits, and veggies.
- **Reduce food waste:** Plan your food quantities carefully to avoid waste, and encourage guests to take home leftovers in reusable containers.

**6. Support and Buy Local:** Whether you're purchasing decorations, food or costumes, try to buy locally-made products and from local shops to support small Australian businesses and reduce the carbon footprint associated with shipping items from overseas.

#### 7. Halloween Clean-up

- **Recycle properly:** After the celebrations, make sure to recycle what you can. Check what can go in your recycling bin on the Council website or Waste Info app.
- **Donate leftovers:** If you have unused decorations or costumes, donate them to op-shops or schools for future use.

