

Put A Little Green In Your Life

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Green Your Halloween



Halloween doesn't need to be so over the top though. You can still dress up and decorate and have fun doing it without contributing to the landfills! Here are **10 simple ways to green your Halloween**.

Turn **costume** making into a creative and fun experience for your child. Hunt through the house, at neighborhood garage sales, thrift stores or consignment shops for costumes or costume-worthy

items. Enjoy the process and the product! If you're not feeling creative, host a costume exchange with other families.

Many store-bought **costumes** and accessories contain toxic chemicals that not only are a potential hazard to your child, but also to the environment and the people who helped to make them. Choose fabrics such as cotton, wool and silk or make costumes yourself from materials you know to be safe.

Give your child a **shakable flashlight** (which uses no batteries and is powered by the shaking motion) or a crank flashlight to light his way and use a **reusable trick-or-treat bag** (a pillow case works great)

Decorate using **homemade crafts** such as egg carton bats, pumpkins and cats from laundry soap bottles, cereal box luminaries, jack-o-lantern candle craft, or use decorations that can be eaten (pie pumpkins, squash) or composted or used in the garden (hay bales).

Visit a **local pumpkin patch** to pick out your pumpkins (you'll be supporting a local farmer and cutting down on greenhouse gases since your pumpkin didn't have to be trucked in from far away). Then **use all of the pumpkin**. You can make roasted pumpkin seeds, pumpkin bread, pumpkin spice cookies or pumpkin black bean soup, and compost your pumpkin when you are done with it.

e-Waste Facts

e-Waste, or electronic waste, is a growing problem, here are some quick facts about it:

The nation now dumps between 300 million and 400 million electronic items per year, and less than 20% of that e-waste is recycled.

E-waste represents 2% of America's trash in landfills, but it equals 70% of overall toxic waste. The extreme amount of lead in electronics alone causes damage in the central and peripheral nervous systems, the blood and the kidneys.

Because computer processing power doubles roughly every two years, many old computers are being abandoned. Only 15% recycle their computers, which means the other 85% end up in landfills.

Only about 2% of PCs ever find their way to a second user.

Facts About Tires



In the U.S., **920 million tires** were used for non-commercial vehicles on the road in 2005, and every year on average, **290 million tires** are disposed of. That's about one tire per person in this country alone. Approximately **27 million tires**, or nine percent, are said to be discarded in landfills.

It takes half a barrel of crude oil to produce enough rubber for just one truck tire, and yet, every two weeks, Americans wear almost 50 million pounds of rubber off their tires. That's enough to make 3 1/4 million NEW tires.

There are several environmental and health concerns when disposing of tires in landfills or in tire stockpiles:

- Many tire **stockpiles are burned**. This creates heavy black smoke and oily residue on soil. The fires are typically difficult to extinguish due to the oil in the tires.
- Tire stockpiles are suitable **breeding grounds for vermin**. Tires collect large pools of water, the perfect atmosphere for mosquitoes, which can carry diseases like encephalitis or dengue fever.

Tires are viewed as a one of the most problematic sources of waste. This is mainly due to the high quantities produced and their great durability, prohibiting the tire from breaking down. However, their durability makes reuse and recycling of scrap tires easy. By recycling tires we also reduce the amount of raw rubber needed for manufacturing, saving natural resources like crude oil.

From 1990 to 2003, the total number of scrap tires going to market increased from 11 million to 233 million. Of all the scrap tires discarded today, over **75 percent** are recycled or used for fuel or other applications.

Regarding Worms Earthworms make wonderful additions to any garden, they help turn and aerate the soil, plus they leave behind nutrients in their waste that the soil needs. Earthworms or red worms can both be added to outdoor compost piles to help speed along the composting process.

Red worms (not to be confused with standard earthworms) can be used as part of a composting system all their own. Worm composting is a method for recycling food waste into a rich, dark, earth-smelling soil conditioner. The great advantage of worm composting is that this can be done indoors and outdoors, thus allowing year round composting. It also provides apartment dwellers with a means of composting. In a nutshell, worm compost is made in a container filled with moistened bedding and red worms. Add your food waste for a period of time, and the worms and micro-organisms will eventually convert the entire contents into rich compost.

