



10 Reasons I Hate Halloween

While every other mom is gleefully donning a witch costume and hanging giant furry spiders on her front door, I'm wishing the whole thing would just go away.

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1. 10 Reasons I Hate Halloween

While everyone else is reveling in the spooky holiday, I'm the cranky one who can't stand it. There are lots of reasons.

1. **Ugly decorations.** If I knock down spider webs all summer, why would I willingly put them up in the fall? Skulls and bats and spiders and creepy faces do not make me feel happy about the world and do not make my house attractive.

2. **The meltdowns.** First there are the tears in the store over the costume selection. Then there are weeks of negotiations about who is going trick-or-treating with whom (and this always radically changes at the last minute, leaving someone sobbing or insisting "I'm staying home!"). There is always an argument about how long they are allowed to stay out. Everyone is overtired and oversugared and the next day is so unbearable it really just needs to be a regular school holiday so we can all recover.

3. **Orange is not the new black.** In fact, it might be THE most unattractive color in the spectrum. I have no desire to wear it, ever.

4. **It makes me fat.** No matter how little candy I buy, there is some left over that I will eat, regardless of the promises I make myself. No matter how much of the kids' candy I make them throw out or give away, there is too much left that I will eat. This day begins the dangerous two-month cycle of unhealthy, helpless eating that lasts until January 2.

5. **Sex appeal.** I have no desire to be a sexy witch, hot zombie, tantalizing vampire, or bewitching devil. And I am certainly not a schoolgirl. The last thing I feel like doing is getting it on with anyone on this night and I'm not going to dress like I do.

6. **Nasty candy corn.** It doesn't even look like corn and is a gummy, pasty hot mess. Its cousin, the candy mini-pumpkin, is even worse. It might be simpler to eat straight food coloring.

7. **Costume fights.** Children's costumes are radically overpriced and poorly made. Yet homemade costumes result in tantrums and comparisons because I am not a Broadway costume designer. No matter what you buy or make it will not meet the requirements for the school party costume (no gore, no blood, no masks, no head gear, no face paint, no weapons) and thus you will end up buying or making a SECOND costume just for that. And there will still be crying about it.

8. **Bloody buffets.** I don't want to eat food that looks like severed fingers, gory eyeballs, rotting brains, or used bandages. And I definitely don't want to have to try make food that falls into this category.

9. **Jacked Up Jack o'lanterns.** Carving pumpkins is a gloppy, impossible, thankless task. Yes, everyone jumps up and down and giggles as the face is drawn on, but when it comes time to scoop all the cold sludge out and move an unwieldy knife through concrete pumpkin flesh, the crowd disperses quickly. By the time the candle is lit, everyone just wants to go to bed after half-heartedly saying how great it looks.

10. **The candy competition.** No matter what I buy or how many handfuls I give each kid, there is always some house down the block giving out jumbo size Snickers bars, five dollar bills, and a bottle of refreshing cold spring water tied up in a homemade gift sack with orange and black ribbon.