

So what will YOU be for Halloween?



Halloween is such a fun time of year, no wonder it's growing by leaps and bounds. To have your share of fun while not investing a fortune on costumes and props, think resale! The Sponsoring Shops at www.HowToConsign.com are ready to help you and your family find the perfect, unique outfits for Halloween fun.

Consignment, resale, and thrift shops collect costumes and things that could make great costumes all year, so don't go buy some flimsy outfit made in some sweat shop somewhere. Think PREcycling: don't add to the waste stream with another mass-produced cheap costume for your child or yourself. Think creatively: think recycled.

Shopping Creatively

What will you be? Before you make the big decision for yourself, your children, or your spouse, take a trip to your local resale shop and see what's to be seen. Besides their costume racks, expand your search to every nook and cranny. You'll come up with ideas that are unique to you, and have plenty of cash left over for those little Snicker bars....

Shopping beyond the costume rack might include finding:

- A velvet shirt that can become, with the help of a pair of scissors, a **dandy's** vest, or a skirt that becomes a **magical cape**;
- Layers of chiffon from an old bridesmaid dress can turn into pantaloons for a **harem girl**, and colorful scarves, her halter top and veils.
- **Toga!** A bed sheet, an elaborate shoulder brooch, a gold chain belt and you're done. Check the floral bits and pieces for some ivy to make a garland and the shoe department for some sandals you can spray with gold paint.

Prefer something even simpler? Gather up any all-white outfit, attach a circle of yellow posterboard to your front, and add red horns and a toy pitchfork: You're a **Deviled Egg**. Don't want to buy the horns and pitchfork? Using black posterboard, cut out and attach to yourself a big letter P. Then use makeup to give yourself a black eye: You're a **Black-Eyed Pea**.

Finding leotards and tights can be the start of so many costumes, you really should stockpile any you find. They're easily turned into fairies, robots... and even make other items more wearable. Think about a tiger-print negligee over a leotard... paint on some whiskers and

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just about anyone you can think of is a **wild animal!** Carry a fallen branch or two, or a cluster of silk foliage, and you're **Tiger Woods**. Turn a leotard, tights, and stocking cap into a dragon by gluing kitchen sponges cut in half diagonally from the tip of your head to your tail. No time to make a tail? You're a differently-abled dragon.

Things you'll find on the racks may inspire you: striped pants for a **clown**, striped jersey for a **sailor**. A peasant blouse, a full skirt, and lots of cheap jewelry makes a **gypsy**. The sleaziest prom dress combined with grey makeup and a bouquet of dead flowers becomes a **Zombie Prom Queen**. Or add a ribbon sash for **Miss Undead 2008**.

Sometimes, all your look needs is a prop or two. Find a batch of doll house furniture? String them all around you on a belt...and you're a **Giant**. Find a baby doll? Dangle it behind you, and you're **The Babysitter** (Tweens especially love that one!)

If you've found a slew of Barbie-style dolls, you've got a costume for your loving husband: He can wear whatever he likes, as long as he allows you to adorn him with the dolls: He's a **Chick Magnet**.

Especially for kids:

With a white sweatshirt and pants, make a child into a **Snowman**: black pompoms as "coal" buttons down his front, a cheap black hat, a striped muffler and a fake corn-cob pipe. Add white face makeup, and your child will be adorable (and highly visible to motorists too!)

Fuzzy sleepers make a wonderful **Rag Doll**: Sew (or glue) various patches here and there, add fabric-scrap braids. Dot on freckles and rosy cheeks, and your little (or big!) Ones are rag dolls. You can probably even find a rag doll to carry.

Here's an outfit any little boy would be proud to help you empty single-serving cereal boxes for: **The Cereal Killer**. Glue plastic knives to the boxes, add red paint, and safety-pin these all over his regular clothes. Not very PC, but very boy-friendly!

Costumes for You

Any costume that allows a woman to dress glamorously, even (or especially!) if it's over-the-top trampy, wins our vote for fun. Thus:

Cinderella before the Ball: Full-skirted gown, soot-begrimed (oh so delicately) cheeks, and plenty of cleavage. Would your escort like to go in drag as the **Fairy Godmother**, or would he prefer **Prince Charming**? Depends on the guy, I guess.

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Gold Digger and proud of it: Anything and everything gold you can find. Gold glitter in your hair. Paint your nails gold. Paint a toy shovel gold.

Something sleazy and festive (but flattering of course!) with a giant price tag: *\$1*, crossed out in red to *50¢*, crossed out again to *25¢*: You're a **Cheap Date**.

Glamorous **witches**, **vampires**, and **Morticia** are easy costumes when you stop by your local resale shop, of course, but don't stop there. A **Runaway Bride**? Find a cheap wedding gown and wear your sneakers. Maybe a pale-blue cocktail dress and silver pumps will inspire your **Ice Princess** or a wild-print jumpsuit your best **Cher** impression.

Ideas for Couples and Groups

Couples costumes can be more than "double the fun." Be **Left Brain/ Right Brain**: he gets to be Left (rational, analytical) with nerd clothes, a pocket protector and all his electronic gadgetry (or a slide rule, if those still exist!) While you get to be the pretty Right Brain (artistic and imaginative) in any arty-looking get-up you have longed to wear.

How about **The Couch Potato** (him in brown sweats stuffed to look round, carrying a remote and a beer) and **The Hot Potato** all in red, with fishnet hose and overdone makeup.

Found a tux for him, a formal for you? That, and signs saying *I'm Sorry*, and you're **Formal Apologies**.

If there's three of you going to a party, how about being **CTRL ALT and DEL** keys? That can be as simple as matching black outfits and big stick-on labels, one per person!

Quick and Easy last minute ideas, now at your favorite resale shop

Think of just about any pun and you can, with the help of a few props, turn it into a costume. Ask your resale shopkeeper... she'll help you interpret it literally:

- Sunglasses and a sign around your neck that says *Bless You!* and you're a **Blessing in Disguise**.
- Tape a dollar bill to a pair of earrings. You're a **Buccaneer** (Buck-an-Ear) worth groaning over.
- Or get literary. Wear old-man style clothing, perhaps a cardigan sweater, baggy chinos, and house slippers and wear a big "C" around your neck. You're **The Old Man and the C**.
- A 25-cent sprig of silk leaves and a baseball cap: Wear the cap, dangle a leaf or two from its

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bill, and when people ask you what you're supposed to be, blow on the leaf and sigh *A Leaf Blower of course.*

- **Static Cling** Wear unironed mismatched ruffled clothes. Pin dryer sheets, odd socks, wash cloths, and so on to you. With hair spray or gel, make your hair stand on end.
- Or be a **Junk Drawer**: Wear all one color and attach items from the typical junk drawer. Single keys, a battery or two, pencil stubs and expired coupons. Look in your own junk drawer for inspiration, and supplies!

Have fun dressing up, have fun shopping creatively at resale, consignment, and thrift shops, and tell them

HowToConsign says BOO!!!



Additional Ideas:

<http://www.costumeideazone.com/index.htm> (*Be wary of where on this site you click...it's full of ads*)

Home-made costume ideas at <http://www.robinsfyi.com/holidays/halloween/costumes.htm>
(*Turn off your sound first if you don't care for blasting music*) and

<http://www.parents.com/holiday/halloween/costumes/halloween-costumes-made-by-moms/>

Especially good for kids' ideas:

http://familyfun.go.com/arts-and-crafts/season/specialfeature/halloween_ms_costumes/

and for men's ideas http://www.askmen.com/money/how_to/22_how_to.html

and groups of any number: <http://familycrafts.about.com/cs/halloween/1/blhalcgroups.htm>

Costumes, crafts, and recipes: <http://holidays.kaboose.com/halloween/>

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