



http://www.geocities.com/hillbilly_nurse/HALLOWEENTIPS.html

Lighting

Electric Lighting

Most homes today have lots of bright light fixtures and spacious windows. Your job as Home Haunter is to make your Halloween party guests forget that they are in a common suburban home with all the modern conveniences. Remove ordinary light bulbs and replace them with colored party bulbs. Colored party bulbs are available at Walmart, Kmart, and even the grocery store. Red, blue and green are my favorites. These colors tend to cast everything into an eerie glow. If you find that certain areas of your house have too much light even with the colored bulbs. Just use one bulb instead of two or three in a fixture. Just make sure that guests, especially children can't come in contact with live bare bulb sockets. To prevent this, save those old burned out light bulbs to put into the sockets for safety. Burned out bulbs won't give off any light and they cover the bare sockets!!!! There are also black light bulbs that screw into ordinary sockets. These work especially well in hallways and bathrooms which are painted white or a very pale color. Use them sparingly. They generate lots of heat so you have to be VERY CAREFUL where they are used. Its best to remove any lamp shades or globes that will be near these type of bulbs to prevent heat buildup. Those candleabras or candlesticks stores sell around Christmas time can also be very effective for lighting when used with the flicker bulbs that imitate a candle flame. The main thing is to have enough light to see safely and not reveal all of your haunting secrets and to keep the spooky Halloween mood. Another good idea is to save the cardboard sleeves that the colored bulbs come in to store them in when Halloween is over with. :- (If you store your bulbs properly, they could last for years.

Candle Lighting

Candles are great for Halloween lighting. Candles can be any color or shape. I prefer black, or dark colored ones. The best time to buy black candles is AFTER Halloween when they go on sale. Why spend big money on them, they're just going to melt down right? Dark blue and purple candles are also great but even red Christmas-type candles will do in a pinch. I also like the little white votive candles that come in the little aluminum cups. They're cheap and they put off just the right amount of light. You can scatter them around the room and they're a lot less messy and not quite as dangerous as larger candles. There are a couple of things to remember with candles. The first one is to keep them clear of ANY flammable objects. The second is to remember to place them in a candle holder of some kind that will catch any melting wax as the candle burns. Candle wax can ruin furniture and cloth table covers. We don't want that. A great candle holder for votive candles is an old saucer covered with aluminum foil. As always remember SAFETY FIRST!!!!

Sound Effects

Many stores sell those Halloween sounds cassettes and CDs. Some of them are pretty good. The CDs are great to use in your home haunt because they automatically replay. The tapes however stop when finished. Go to Radio Shack and pick up some continuous loop cassettes and dub a copy of the cassettes so that you can play them all night without having to flip over the cassette or rewinding. You don't want the soundtrack too loud, either. You want the sound subtle but present. You might also check out some of the mood tapes with rain or thunderstorms. You might want to take of the sound tapes and dub with it the sounds of rain or thunderstorms. Just keep the volume low on the thunderstorm so you don't drown out the spooky sound effects. Keep you eye out for small bookshelf speakers at yard sales and thrift shops. They're easier to hide and they don't need a lot of power to produce sound. Old stereo receivers work great to power your sound effects and they don't have to be out in the open. You could put the receiver outside and run the speaker wires in through a slightly opened window. You could power speakers in vaious areas of the house this way and not have to worry about the speaker wires being tripped over or having to fasten them up somewhere. A small portable cassette player or CD player could be hidden in the air register in the floor in the bathroom or the kitchen to extend the haunting sounds to rooms where conventional speakers wouldn't be easy to hide. Cover up any indicator lights with a small piece of black electrical tape. We don't want the guests to figure out where the sound is coming from. Just remember to keep the receiver that's powering the main speakers dry and out of the weather in case it rains. :-)

Spiderwebs

No haunted home is complete without spiderwebs!! Give your home that "undisturbed" look. Buy those spiderwebs that come in a bag from the discount stores. The main thing to remember with these type of webs is to use a small piece and stretch it out well. Real spiders don't make clumpy webs, why should you? Use a small piece of cellophane tape to fasten them to things. Hang them on pictures, bookcases, plants and anything else that doesn't move. One word of caution: Keep the webbing away from sources of high heat or flame. The webbing material CAN catch fire. Safety is our first concern when working on displays and decorations.