

# Make it a Green Halloween!

## Some tips & ideas for an eco-friendly Halloween from The Preservation Collective, Inc.



The Preservation Collective is an advocacy group committed to educating the community by bringing attention to and defending against the environmental impacts of new development and advocating for improved controls for sustainable growth to protect the scenic, historic and cultural landscapes in our communities



The Preservation Collective, Inc.  
PO Box 721  
Chester NY 10918  
845-469-1608  
[www.thepreservationcollective.com](http://www.thepreservationcollective.com)

*The Preservation Collective, Inc. is a non-profit 501(c)(3) tax exempt corporation; all donations are tax-deductible to the extent applicable by law.*



Halloween is a very spooky time. Ghosts, goblins, and witches fill the streets while jack-o'-lanterns cast their eerie glow. But do you know what the scariest thing about Halloween is? It's the amount of garbage we create at this time of year. That's very frightening indeed!

**Why not try a greener Halloween this year? Fill up your loot bag instead of the landfill by trying some of these ideas...**

- Make your own costume. Use your imagination. Check your attic or your parents' closet to find a treasure trove of wonderful materials to make your costume. Some of Mom and Dad's clothes from the '70s & '80s might be scary enough to make the entire neighborhood run away!
- **Go green by turning something orange into something black! When carving your jack-o'-lantern, scoop out the pumpkin seeds and roast them in the oven. They're delicious! After Halloween is over, let the squirrels and deer snack on your pumpkin and then put the remains in the compost pile. As your jack-o'-lantern decomposes, he will create a rich fertilizer for next year's garden.**
- Make your own "loot bag" by decorating an old pillowcase or using an old tote or reusable grocery bag. Remember not to litter!
- **Make your own Halloween decorations. Stuff old clothes with newspapers and straw and add a pumpkin head to make a scarecrow. Or make papier maché bats, spiders and masks. Turn this page over to learn how you can make a "skeleton man" from your old milk jugs. After you are finished with your skeleton man, you can save him for another year or take him apart and put him in your recycling bin!**

**Instructions to make your Skeleton Man →**

# Make Your Own Milk Jug Skeleton Man



Start saving your empty plastic-gallon jugs. With a few quick snips and hole-punches, you can turn it into a life-size skeleton. Small children can punch holes and help tie bones together. Cutting out and gluing pieces together is a job for older children and parents. Remember, you can keep your Skeleton Man for next year or simply take him apart and recycle the milk jugs!

## MATERIALS:

- 8 or 9 clean, plastic gallon jugs
- String
- Scissors
- Craft knife (optional – for parents use only!)
- Glue gun (for parents use)
- One-hole punch

**HEAD:** Choose a jug with a pair of indentations opposite the handle and turn it upside down. In the corner, opposite the handle, cut out a large smiling mouth centered under the indented “eyes.” Make two small slits in the top of head and tie a loop of string through them for hanging the finished skeleton.

**CHEST:** Cut a vertical slit down the center of a right-side-up jug, directly opposite the handle. Cut and trim away plastic to make the rib cage. Glue the head and chest together at the “neck” by connecting the spouts of the two jugs with a thick band of hot glue. Hold the jugs together for a few minutes until the glue cools.

**SHOULDERS:** Cut off two-jugs handles (leaving a small collar on the ends) and attach them to the chest section with hot glue. Punch a hole at one end of each shoulder.

**HIPS:** Cut all the way around a jug, about 4 ½ inches up from the bottom. Take the bottom piece and trim away a small smile shape from each side to make a four-cornered shape. Punch holes in two opposite corners.

**WAIST:** Cut out two spouts, leaving a ½ inch collar on each. Glue the spouts together and let dry. Hot-glue the waist to the bottom of the chest and to the top of the hip section

**ARMS AND LEGS:** Cut eight long bone shapes from the corner sections of three jugs (cut into the curved shape of the jug to make the bones even more realistic). From four of these bones, cut out the center to make lower limbs (forearms and shins). Punch a hole through the ends of all eight bones. Use string to tie two arm sections to each shoulder and two leg sections to each hip.

**HANDS AND FEET:** Let kids trace their hands and feet onto the side of a jug, then cut out the shapes. Punch holes in the hands and feet, and tie them onto the arms and legs.