

5

WAYS TO SAVE MONEY THIS HALLOWEEN

You can have a spook-tacular holiday without being scared of destroying your budget.

1

OPT FOR CANDY ALTERNATIVES

You can stretch your cash by purchasing cheap Halloween bags full of inexpensive toys, spooky stickers and temporary tattoos at discount stores, and the kids will go gaga for them. **Bonus:** The dentist will thank you.

2

GO BIG-BOX OR WAREHOUSE

If you absolutely can't live without candy, you'll save the most money by getting it at big-box stores (like Walmart) or warehouse stores (such as Sam's Club). That's because they'll offer you a big bag of candy that contains a larger quantity, so you'll end up spending less per piece. Plus, keep your receipts. You can return unopened bags of Halloween candy to most retailers.

3

BUY COSTUMES SECONDHAND

Hit consignment shops and secondhand stores. Goodwill and The Salvation Army collect costume donations all year long, but they wait until Halloween season to roll them out, selling them for a fraction of their original cost. Some shops also purchase overstock and closeout merchandise of brand-new costumes and resell them at bottom-dollar prices.

4

GET CREATIVE & DIY IT

Making your own costumes isn't just cheaper; it's also way more fun! Raid your closet and junk drawer and dress as a bag of jelly beans or a salt shaker (with your husband going as a pepper shaker, of course). The best Halloween costumes are unique, original ideas that no one else has, but feel free to peruse Pinterest, too. We won't tell.

5

START A (CHEAP) NEW TRADITION

There are lots of ways to celebrate Halloween for less. Read the kids a mystery novel: The local library is a great place to find spooky, family-friendly books. Or go on an adventure: Find out where free and low-cost events like haunted houses, pumpkin carving and hayrides are taking place near you.