

BASIC PUMPKIN CARVING TIPS



The carving of the pumpkin should only be done by an adult for safety reasons.

Use a marker to draw a circle at the stem end of the pumpkin. Cut the lid at an angle with a sharp, straight edged knife. This prevents the top from falling into the pumpkin when it shrinks.



Children can remove the seeds and pulp from the inside of the pumpkin and draw on the pumpkin with a water-based marker. Or, tape a paper pattern to the pumpkin and use a ballpoint pen to poke small dots into the pumpkin along the lines, then remove the pattern.



Never hold the knife in a stabbing position.

When carving, keep a portion of the knife blade in the pumpkin and use slow, steady saw strokes.

Carve the facial features closest to the centre first and work outward. Cut out the larger features in sections.



Remove carved portions by gently pushing them into or out of the pumpkin.

Re-attach a section that is accidentally removed by using a toothpick to pin it back into place.

To make white teeth or eyes, cut only through the surface of the skin. Then use a knife to "peel" or cut back the orange layer.



Make holes for ears and use pumpkin scraps with funny shapes to stick in those holes.

Flatten a spot at the base of the pumpkin for the night light but avoid digging too deep because the pumpkin becomes prone to rot.

Children can then decorate the carved lanterns further if desired.