

PUMPKIN CARVING SAFETY TIPS

CARVE IN A CLEAN, DRY, WELL-LIT AREA

Wash and thoroughly dry all of the tools that you will use to carve the pumpkin: carving tools, knife, cutting surface, and your hands. Any moisture on your tools, hands, or table can cause slipping that can lead to injuries.

ALWAYS HAVE ADULT SUPERVISION

Even though the carving may be going great, it only takes a second for an injury to occur.

Leave the Carving to Adults

Never let children do the carving. Instead let kids draw a pattern on the pumpkin and have them be responsible for cleaning out the inside pulp and seeds. When the adults do start cutting, they should always cut away from themselves and cut in small, controlled strokes.

Sharper is Not Better

A sharper knife is not necessarily better, because it often becomes wedged in the thicker part of the pumpkin, requiring force to remove it. An injury can occur if your hand is in the wrong place when the knife finally dislodges from the thick skin of the pumpkin. Injuries are also sustained when the knife slips and comes out the other side of the pumpkin where your hand may be holding it steady.

Use a Pumpkin Carving Kit

Special pumpkin carving kits are available in stores and include small serrated pumpkin saws that work better because they are less likely to get stuck in the thick pumpkin tissue.

Help for a Pumpkin Carving Injury

Should you cut your finger or hand, bleeding from minor cuts will often stop on its own by applying direct pressure to the wound with a clean cloth.

Here are a few signs that you should seek additional help:

- The bleeding doesn't stop after 15 minutes of holding constant pressure.
- You experience persistent numbness in your finger.
- You are unable to flex or extend your finger.
- The wound is contaminated or too large to close on its own.

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