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LIFE AT HOME

DECOR • DOMESTIC ARTS • RENOVATIONS • RENTALS • RESALE

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AROUND THE HOUSE

Recycle your Halloween items

ECO-FRIENDLY • From the disposable costumes to the plastic decorations, Halloween can be a frighteningly wasteful holiday.

Make a difference by recycling, reusing and repurposing your tricks and treats. The October issue of Better Homes and Gardens features the following tips:

■ **Pumpkins:** The City of Calgary offers a leaf and pumpkin recycling program. Go to Calgary.ca and search "pumpkin recycling" to find a convenient drop-off.

■ **Decorations:** Decorate your front walk and porch with eco-friendlier decor such as rocks painted with glow-in-the-dark paint and solar lights draped in white sheets to create spooky hanging "ghosts."

■ **Candy:** Give leftover wrapped candy to local charities or an agency that works with children. Hard candies — such as peppermints — can be crushed with a rolling pin and sprinkled on rolled cookie dough before baking for a yummy glaze.

■ **Costumes:** Donate last year's outfits to local charities such as the Salvation Army or Women In Need Society where they'll be sold to raise money. After this year's festivities, ask local children's hospitals if they would like lightly-worn costumes.

For more local green Halloween ideas go to calgaryherald.com/greenguide.

—McClatchy Newspapers

What's old is new again

WALLS • Following today's home style trend of mixing old with new, wallpaper mainstay Graham & Brown has launched the Monsoon Home collection.

Showcasing feminine and eclectic decorative designs, the wallpapers are a fusion of old meets new; east meets west.

Take Amelie. With its teardrop design — inspired by an oriental jacquard — available in colours from teal to charcoal to shell pink, it would be equally comfortable covering walls in a living room or guest room, in a modern or traditional house.

Other designs in the collection take traditional patterns such as chrysanthemums and damask, and update them through stylization. This new collection — and the resurgence of wallpaper in general — is yet another reminder that what's old is new again. Go to grahambrown.com.

—Lisa Kadane, Calgary Herald

Take command of your clutter

PRODUCT • It's easy to get organized with 3M Command's new line of home organizing products. Geared toward teens or university students living in small spaces, these eight new products will help you take control of clutter in your home, office or dorm room.

We especially like the Loft Shelf: it sticks onto the wall creating an instant bedside table perfect for resting a reading lamp and book. All 3M Command wall products feature adhesive tape, so no hardware is required. 3M Command products are available in Calgary at Staples.

—Lisa Kadane, Calgary Herald

Ideas for a spooktacular Halloween

A Witch's Brew

LISA KADANE
CALGARY HERALD

Back in the day, decorating for Halloween meant carving a pumpkin for the front porch. Today, a lone Jack-o'-lantern standing sentry is merely the first ingredient in what's become a witch's brew of possibilities for transforming your Calgary crib into a creepy crypt.

This year, local retailers from HomeSense to Winners to Chapters are offering a staggering variety of Halloween home decor items. Accessories range in style from folksy and fun, such as a line of cute, collectible black-cat dolls at Rubaiyat; to over-the-top kitschy: the Chop Shop head-with-cleaver found at Reid's Stationers, for one. From pumpkin window-charms to ceramic skull punch bowls, no corner of the house has been overlooked.

What is perhaps most frightening is the kitschy objects' popularity among customers.

"They love (Halloween). Over the years it's gotten more and more popular," says Maureen Reid-Bilton, co-owner of Reid's Stationers on 17th Avenue S.W.

She attributes Halloween's burgeoning popularity to the fact that it's one of the only holidays that is just about fun. It's also equally loved by children and parents.

Whatever its appeal, Halloween has turned into a billion-dollar business. A 2007 survey by the Retail Council of Canada found, on average, Canadians planned to spend \$59 on items from candy to pumpkins, costumes to decorations.

What's more, 68 per cent of those surveyed planned to participate in at least one Halloween-related activity, such as taking the kids trick-or-treating or handing out candy. Of those surveyed, 41 per cent intended to decorate.

"Some people like it more than Christmas," says Reid-Bilton. Indeed, it's apparent this spooky celebration is upstaging its spiritual cousin when you walk into Rubaiyat, another 17th Avenue holiday mainstay. There you'll find a gnarled, black Halloween tree trimmed with hand-blown glass pumpkin

and devil head ornaments, and more whimsical decorations of spiders and witches. The store has even erected an entire Halloween Snow Village by Department 56 (the same American company that does the Christmas villages).

"We have customers who do very large displays," says Rubaiyat's Allan Sweetser.

When it comes to Halloween you can go as big as buying a realistic, life-size butler-turned-boogeyman to greet trick-or-treaters, or as small as purchasing a spider web-designed bowl to hold candy.

But just because there's a lot of gore-decor for sale this year doesn't mean bloodier is better.

"You can do a whole purple, black and orange blingy Halloween" that's more class than crass, says local interior designer Dianna Barry.

"It does leave it open to a lot of interpretation, which I think is kind of nice."

Those wanting to put a choke-hold on spending this holiday will be happy to know it's possible to go all out without emptying the bank account. A Ghostly Good Time: The Family Halloween Handbook (Woman's Day Special Interest Publications, 128 pages) is available at Chapters for \$11.99. It's your guide to a do-it-yourself holiday complete with carved pumpkin yard tableaus, bat and spider window treatments and do-die-for desserts.

Of course, for those with little time, or interest in the goings-on on Oct. 31, just remember to draw your curtains and turn off the porch light. With such minimal effort, yours can be the dark, spooky haunted house on the block.

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Who says decorative lights are only for Christmas? Halloween continues to upstage its December holiday cousin with these boo lanterns. A string of 10 sells for \$21 at Rubaiyat.

Creepy Cuts bloody fingers, \$12.98. If you want to decorate for a slasher Halloween, look for other gruesome body parts for sale at Reid's Stationers.

Serve up some gummy worms and deviled egg eyeballs in this fun spider server by Department 56. Available at Reid's Stationers for \$94.98.

Kids will love sticking these Halloween-themed Gel-Gems window clings onto glass panes. Also available in pumpkins and a hocus pocus witch. \$7.99 at Chapters.

Miss Catrina Fortune, by Bethany Lowe Designs, adds a touch of class to what can be a gory or kitschy holiday. Available at Rubaiyat for \$210.

Photos, Leah Hennel, Calgary Herald

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ONLINE FEATURES



Have a boo at more Halloween decor images at calgaryherald.com.

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RE/MAX
HOUSE OF REAL ESTATE

Richmond Hill, \$825,000 – 210 Sienna Park Terrace, SW
One of a kind location, sitting atop a ridge, backing onto a greenspace with walking paths & incredible views! Dev'd walkout with in-floor heating, 2731 + 1254 s.f., 4+1 bedrooms, large West windows. Jet-tub ensuite in master & upper floor laundry.



Springbank Hill, \$2,195,000 – 4 Fortress Rise, SW
An incredible 5472 s.f. of dev'd living space. Hardwood floors, top-of-the-line appliances, huge central island w/ gas range, sleek granite counters. Daylight basement: wet bar, gym w/ steam shower bath & ultimate home theatre. 3 car garage.



Elbow Valley Estates, \$1,650,000 – 223 Winding River Point, SW
Backing onto greenspace & boasting 5509 s.f. with dev'd walkout & 4+1 bdrms! Hardwood floors, huge kitchen w/ granite & premium appliances, master ensuite w/ steam shower & jet-tub. Fully equipped media room in bsmt. 3 car garage. 7 tv's incl.



Elbow Valley Estates, \$2,300,000 – 108 Elbow Ridge Bluffs
Backing onto a green area w/ breathtaking mountain views, an astounding 7 bdrms all w/ walk-in closets & ensuites. Incredible 7294 s.f. with dev'd walkout. 3 furnaces & in-floor heat, custom finished & heated 4 car garage, passenger elevator & gym.



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