

How to Carve Out a Pumpkin

Decorating a pumpkin is a great way to celebrate Halloween and can be lots of messy fun! A big part of decorating a pumpkin involves sharp knives so it is best that only adults do the cutting and chopping while you let the kids create the spooky design.

- 1) Draw your design onto a piece of paper, you can find stencils online if you are struggling to get your scary design right.
- 2) Stick the stencil onto your pumpkin and using a nail push through the paper to create a small hole in your pumpkin. Continue to do this for the whole design until you are left with a connect the dots stencil on your pumpkin.
- 3) Now that you have your design on the pumpkin it is time to cut off the top part. For this you will need a very sharp knife as the top of a pumpkin can be very thick and difficult to cut through. Carefully slice into the pumpkin and go all of the way around until you can lift the top off holding the stalk.
- 4) Here comes the fun bit for the kids! Its time to scoop out the insides! The best way to do this is to use an ice cream scoop to get out all of the seeds and flesh. Do not throw away the inside of the pumpkin; you can use it as part of a pumpkin pie or soup.
- 5) Now that you have hollowed out the pumpkin it is time carve out your design. This can be done using a very sharp knife or some kind of small saw bought from a DIY store. Using the dotted stencil carefully begin to cut out your design.
- 6) Once you have cut out the entire stencil you then have to decide where you will put your pumpkin. Why not place it outside your front door? Or use it as a table centre piece if you are having a party!
- 7) If you want to add some extra character to your pumpkin, why not use red paint to give the illusion of blood? Or use some old clothes to dress up your pumpkin in any theme you want.

