

## Halloween Costume Swap Guide

Hosting a Halloween costume swap can help you and your neighbours save money while reducing waste and building community!

### Here are a few tips for success<sup>1</sup>:

**Secure a location.** Depending on the size of your swap, venue options could range from your living room or cleaned out garage to a community centre, library, church, or recreation centre. Just make sure there is enough room to display costumes of various sizes.

**Choose a time and date.** Leave enough time to set up and clean up afterwards.

**Set the rules.** Do swappers need to leave a costume to take a costume (one for one)? If so, have a system so that you can track costumes. For example, a person could get three stamps on their hand if they bring three costumes, and then a volunteer can check how many costumes they leave with.

Alternatively, your swap could operate on the "leave what you can, take what you need" principle, with leftover costumes being donated or stored until next year's swap.

**Collect costumes.** It's a good idea to have a starter supply of costumes for those who come early. These could be collected from family and friends or your local thrift store.

**Gather supplies.** You may need racks or tables, signs for labelling sizes (e.g. recycled cardboard, markers, and tape), hangers if you are using racks, and mirrors that can be safely secured.

**Get the word out.** Use low-cost advertising such as creating and reposting a Facebook event page, a community newsletter, email, or through local schools. Encourage parents to bring kids dressed in a leotard or swimsuit to avoid having to undress for trying on costumes. Ask people to bring their own bag.

### On the day:

- Arrange costumes by size, either laid out on tables or hung on hangers.
- Allow children to try on costumes.
- Have volunteers available to keep costumes arranged by size.
- Make it fun! Have a face painter or set up a crafts table so that families can socialize afterwards.
- Invite a local group to run a bake sale during your event and request that they minimize serving/packaging materials.
- Celebrate Halloween and sharing within your community!

**Have more questions or would like to share your success? We'd love to hear from you!**

Email [sustainable@kamloops.ca](mailto:sustainable@kamloops.ca)

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<sup>1</sup> Adapted from [www.greenhalloween.org/CostumeSwap/howto.html](http://www.greenhalloween.org/CostumeSwap/howto.html)