9 Easy Pumpkin Carving Ideas

Cute, funny & unique Halloween crafts • Beginner-friendly ideas for carving or painting

Pick your favorite pumpkin, gather a few craft supplies, and make it your own. Several designs work beautifully without carving.

1. Cool Sunglasses Pumpkin

A smiling pumpkin with a bold pair of shades.

How to make it

1. Choose a medium, round pumpkin and clean the outside.
2. If carving, ask an adult to cut the lid and scoop out the seeds.
3. Draw and carve a wide smiling mouth; keep the eye area simple.
4. Paint on sunglasses or attach a paper shape instead of carving them.
5. Place a battery-powered LED light inside.

Little tip: Black paint makes the sunglasses pop.

2. Cute Cat Pumpkin

A sweet cat face with whiskers and pink ears.

How to make it

1. Use a white pumpkin or paint one white and let it dry.
2. Draw closed eyes, whiskers, rosy cheeks and a tiny nose.
3. Add ears made from cardstock, felt or painted cardboard.
4. Use an LED light inside only if you have carved an opening.

Little tip: Paint the entire face.

3. Funny Monster Pumpkin

Big eyes and a goofy, toothy grin.

How to make it

1. Cut a wide, irregular mouth with adult help.
2. Make triangle teeth from clean pumpkin scraps or craft foam.
3. Attach oversized craft eyes or paint them on.
4. Decorate the top with faux leaves or mini pumpkins.
5. Add a battery-powered LED light.

Little tip: Uneven teeth make it extra silly.

Make it your own!

Try a different expression, color palette, or tiny seasonal detail. Painted designs are a great option when you want to skip carving.

Your Pumpkin Idea Cards

Use the steps as a simple checklist while you decorate.

4. Stacked Pumpkin Family

Three pumpkins become a tiny Halloween family.

How to make it

1. Pick three pumpkins in different sizes.
2. Give each one a different painted or carved expression.
3. Stack them on a flat, stable surface; don't place them where they can fall.
4. Add painted stars, dots or fall leaves.
5. Use LED lights in any carved pumpkins.

Little tip: Keep the biggest pumpkin at the bottom.

5. Mini Pumpkin Garden

A cheerful bowl of painted mini pumpkins.

How to make it

1. Gather several mini pumpkins and a shallow planter or bowl.
2. Paint them in orange, white, green or cream; let them dry.
3. Add faces, stripes, dots, flowers or leaf patterns.
4. Arrange them with faux greenery and fall leaves.

Little tip: great for a family craft.

6. Moonlight Cat Pumpkin

A mysterious black pumpkin with a glowing cat.

How to make it

1. Paint a pumpkin black and let it dry completely.
2. Draw a simple cat silhouette and a few stars.
3. For a glowing effect, carve only if an adult can do so safely.
4. Place a battery-powered LED light inside.
5. Display outdoors in a sheltered spot after sunset.

Little tip: Use gold paint for the moon and stars.

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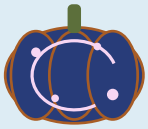
7. Galaxy Pumpkin

A tiny universe made with paint and stars.



How to make it

1. Paint the pumpkin navy, dark blue or black.
2. Dab purple and pink swirls with a sponge.
3. Add tiny white stars using a small brush or cotton swab.
4. Let the paint dry; add craft sealer only if its label allows.

Little tip: No carving required—just paint and imagination.

8. Cute Ghost Pumpkin

A friendly ghost surrounded by little hearts.

How to make it

1. Draw a simple ghost outline on the pumpkin.
2. With adult help, carve the outline, eyes and smiling mouth if desired.
3. Add small heart shapes around the ghost.
4. Use an LED light inside for a gentle glow.
5. Alternatively, paint the ghost on the pumpkin.

Little tip: Beginner pick: Paint the ghost instead of carving it.

9. Sunflower Pumpkin

A sunny flower with a happy face in the middle.

How to make it

1. Paint the pumpkin green, orange or leave it natural.
2. Paint large yellow petals around the front.
3. Add a brown center and a simple smiling face.
4. Add sunglasses for a playful finishing touch.
5. Let the paint dry before displaying.

Little tip: Perfect for fall décor even after Halloween.

Make it your own!

Try a different expression, color palette, or tiny seasonal detail. Painted designs are a great option when you want to skip carving.

Keep Your Pumpkins Looking Great

- Choose firm pumpkins without soft spots.
- Keep carved pumpkins cool when possible; carved pumpkins naturally spoil faster.
- Use battery-powered LED lights instead of open flames.
- Have an adult handle carving tools, and keep hands dry and tools stable.

Which pumpkin will you try first? Happy Halloween!