

# dry ice pumpkin for Halloween

by [dave spencer](#) on October 30, 2007

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## **Intro:** Dry ice pumpkin for Halloween

This year for Halloween I made a jack-o-lantern that blows dry ice water vapor. A friend turned me on to <http://www.pumpkingutter.com>. I thought it was amazing but I figured it was well beyond my abilities artistically speaking. Then I thought up this idea and had to give it a shot.

If you like this then check out my jack-o-lantern from last year. <http://www.instructables.com/id/the-gruesome-suffocating-jack-o-lantern/>



### **step 1: Materials**

You obviously need a pumpkin! Free- \$5

Ice bucket -\$2

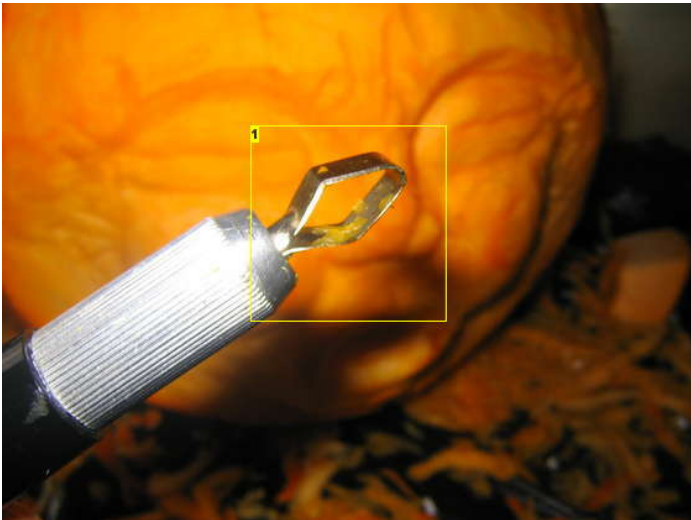
Old vacuum hose Free -\$0.67

Dry ice - \$1/lb from a welding supply store (20 lbs would keep this running for a while)

pumpkin carving tools - \$9 exacto-knife kit (on sale)

- potato peeler

- spoon



#### **Image Notes**

1. This was the tool I used for 90% of the work in carving the face.

## step 2: Jack-o-lantern

I carved a tapering hole to fit the vacuum hose where the mouth would be. From there I used the potato peeler to remove the rind from an area where I was to carve the face. Then it was just a matter of hacking away until a face forms. Be aware of where you want your high spots to be.

Sorry that when it does not blow vapor it looks a little like a blow up doll for people with a real sick fetish.

I was quite pleased with how it turned out considering I have never sculpted anything in my life before. No comparing to pumpkingutter.com though.

You would be amazed at how much you can cut away without poking through. I think the thinnest spot of my face is still 1/2 an inch thick. One trick I found was to poke a thin exacto blade through the wall until it just sticks through on the inside, then pinch the blade and pull it out to gauge how much wall is left. The blade hole you poked will be invisible.



## step 3: dry ice delivery

I went to a junk store looking for an old pressure cooker but all I found was the ice bucket. It was still good because the lid sealed but the pressure cooker would have been better because it could have sat on a hot plate or camp stove to keep the water warm.

Important note\*\*\*

Dry ice will not form water vapor if the water temp is below 50 degrees. So I had to keep dumping out the cold water and adding more hot every 5-7 minutes.

I wanted a sealed unit because I wanted the jack-o-lantern to "blow" the vapor, not just have it dribble out of it's mouth.

It was easy to cut a hole in the lid to fasten the vacuum hose with an exacto knife. ( this would have been harder with a pressure cooker)

I drew a skull on the lid to let my son know not to touch.

All that was left was to cut a hole in the back of the pumpkin the route the hose to the inside of the mouth.



## step 4: video

To make it work, just put some dry ice in the bucket, add warm water. Snap on the lid and watch the kids freak out! This video was taken about 4 minutes after the water was added. The vapor shot out further earlier on. As I said before, to reinvigorate all you have to do is add more hot water and/or more dry ice.

notes on dry ice-

Dry ice is just frozen carbon dioxide. The "smoke" you see is just water vapor and is not harmful or toxic.

The only way the carbon dioxide can hurt you is if you displace the oxygen in a small enclosed space.

However, the ice is very cold (-109 F!!!!) and will actually cause burns to your skin. You could pick up a chunk of dry ice and as long as you bounce it around like a hot potato you will not get burned. UNLESS your hands are wet, in which case it will burn you almost instantly (trust me) Plan on wearing gloves.

If you have to store the dry ice for long. Store it in a large cooler and wrap the cooler in sleeping bags and blankets. Don't think you are going to get more than 24 hours without having a substantial amount of your dry ice literally vanish into thin air.

## Related Instructables



**Jack O' Lantern ice sculpture** by 247guy



**Appl-O-Lantern (slideshow)** by Shadow Ops



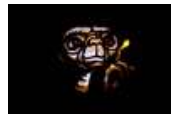
**The Instant Mini Jack-o-lantern Army (made of citrus!)** by AwajiMan



**How to Carve a Jack-o-lantern** by buhlers



**Why So Serious?!?!? Joker Pumpkin (slideshow)** by DainiusGB



**jeff-o's 2008 pumpkins (slideshow)** by jeff-o



**Appl-O-Lantern - Try it! (slideshow)** by lukethebook333



**Infant Pumpkin Costume (slideshow)** by ewilhelm

## Comments

19 comments [Add Comment](#)



**shaneomacmcgee** says:

Dry ice smoke is Carbon dioxide, not water vapor... isn't it?

I've always heard not to stick your head in the clouds of smoke, not because of toxicity, but to avoid suffocation

Oct 29, 2009. 6:43 PM [REPLY](#)



**bleachworthy** says:

nice job man! I would do this with a real pumpkin, but the only available one in town weighs 184 pounds, and is \$50! even if I had the cash, it would be too big to fit in my car! so, i am using a plastic one, it fogs very nicely with about a pound of crushed dry ice, and a liter of water, just poured in it. I found dry ice for \$0.67 a pound here, so naturally, I bought 15 pounds of it. :P. I found that if you take a laundry basket (solid tub style), and put 10 pounds crushed in, with it half full of hot water, you can fog up an entire lawn, or a house easily. (in the house, the fog rose to about 2.5 feet! great job!

Oct 31, 2007. 1:23 PM [REPLY](#)



**Jonny Appleseed** says:

lol i'm gonna use my friend's pumpkin, weighs 597 pounds and the seeds sell for up to 50 bucks a seed, and there's thousands inside, gonna be a good halloween :)

Oct 17, 2008. 8:55 PM [REPLY](#)





**Pie\_eata** says:  
suite idea dude would look uber sectcy w/ leds

Oct 30, 2007. 5:09 PM [REPLY](#)

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**tiuk** says:  
My dad did this when I was a kid, it was the first time I had seen dry ice. He had painted the pumpkin black and attached "legs" made of foam tubes, making the pumpkin look like a spider.

Oct 30, 2007. 7:58 AM [REPLY](#)

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Anyway, it's a very cool effect, and amazes a lot of people.

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