

AUGUST

DIY Haunted House Planning

Your haunted house is your stage, and you're the director of terror. Ready to create a spine-chilling masterpiece? Let's get haunting!

PICK YOUR POISON (THEME)

Every great haunted house starts with a killer theme. Here's how to conjure yours:

- Choose your vibe: Haunted Carnival, Zombie Apocalypse, Witch's Cottage, or something even creepier?
- Know your audience: Are you scaring kids, adults, or the bravest souls in town?
- Match the mood: Costumes, decor, and props should scream your theme.
- Add a twist: What makes your haunt unique? A vampire tea party? A haunted doll factory? Let your imagination run wild!

SET THE SCENE

The devil's in the details—here's how to bring your haunt to life:

- Spooky sounds: Background ambience (whispers, creaking doors, howling wind). Motion-activated sounds for jump scares.
- Lighting magic: Dim or colored lights for atmosphere. Spotlights to highlight key props. Strobe lights for disorienting effects (but don't overdo it).
- Scare tactics: Jump scares: Hidden actors or sudden movements. Psychological scares: Moving dolls, eerie mirrors, or unsettling shadows. Interactive scares: Riddles, actors engaging with guests, or props that "come alive."

SHARE YOUR HAUNT

Your haunted house deserves to be seen! Here's how to share it with the world:

- Snap your best shots: Wide angles, close-ups, and dramatic lighting.
- Post on Instagram: Use the hashtag #GothandGhoulHaunt to join the community.
- Tell your story: Add a caption about your theme, your favorite scare, or a behind-the-scenes moment.
- Get featured: Check GothandGhoul's Instagram for weekly highlights—you might just see your haunt in the spotlight!

MAP OUT THE MADNESS (LAYOUT)

A haunted house without a plan is just a house. Here's how to design your nightmare:

- Sketch it out: Draw a rough layout of your space.
- Mark the hotspots: Entryway, scare zones, and transitions.
- Guide the victims: Use barriers like curtains, furniture, or props to control the flow.
- Pace the terror: Alternate between jump scares and eerie quiet moments to keep guests on edge.
- Test your haunt: Walk through it yourself (or with a brave friend) to make sure it's scary and smooth.

SAFETY FIRST, GHOULS!

Even the scariest haunted house needs to be safe:

- Clear walkways: No trip hazards—unless it's part of the scare!
- Use LED candles: Real flames are a no-go.
- Secure everything: Props and decor should stay put, even if guests get grabby.
- Be prepared: Keep a first-aid kit on hand.
- Test it all: Do a final walkthrough to make sure everything works as planned.



CRAFT YOUR CREEPY CREATIONS

Time to get your hands dirty (and maybe a little bloody):

- Basic decor: Walls: Black sheeting, cobwebs, or fabric. Lighting: Colored bulbs, LED candles, or string lights. Floors: Leaves, hay, or rugs.
- DIY props: Floating ghosts (cheesecloth + balloons). Tombstones (foam or cardboard). Jars of horror (mason jars + creepy items).
- Repurpose everyday items: Old clothes, thrift store finds, or that creepy doll in your attic.
- Add personal touches: Make it scream you (or your theme).

HOST THE ULTIMATE HAUNT

Your haunted house is ready—now it's time to show it off:

- Set the tone: Send themed invitations to get guests in the mood.
- Serve spooky snacks: Witch's brew punch, mummy hot dogs, or ghostly cupcakes.
- Create a playlist: Mix spooky sound effects with Halloween classics.
- Guide the victims: Lead guests through in small groups for maximum scares.
- Photo ops: Set up a themed backdrop or prop station for Instagram-worthy pics.

HAPPY HAUNTING!

For more tips, tricks, and spooky inspiration, visit **GothandGhoul.com**.

Now go forth and create a haunted house that will leave your guests screaming (in a good way)!