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WELLNESS WEEKLY

Tricks to Avoid Halloween Candy Temptations

Halloween unofficially marks the beginning of the holiday feasting season. And for anyone trying to watch his or her weight, the scariest part of Halloween is the ever-abundant Halloween candy which is all over the stores over a month before. Sugar and mostly empty calories is what you get in candy, and the truth is that most of us don't exercise enough to warrant those extra calories.

Those cute little fun-size candy bars seem harmless -- and they are, if you can limit your consumption which is easier said than done. But there are ways to keep your hands out of the candy jar so you can avoid packing on some extra pounds even before the holiday season starts. Here are tips to help you avoid the temptation of Halloween goodies, at home and at the office.

- **Buy candy you don't love.** If the candy in your pantry is stuff kids like but you don't enjoy, it will be easier to resist opening those bags and diving in.
- **Out of sight, out of mind.** Ask your co-workers to keep their candy jars and bowls inside their desks or in a cabinet in the break room so you won't be tempted every time you see it.
- **Savor one piece of your favorite candy a day.** Decide what time of day you most relish the sweet stuff, and save your special treat for that time. Then sit back and slowly savor the taste sensation. Indulge your sweet tooth on occasion, because denying yourself completely could lead to an all-out binge.
- **Chew gum.** Sugarless gum gives your mouth a burst of sweet sensation for very few calories. Studies have shown that gum chewing can also help relieve stress, mentally focus on tasks, satisfy a sweet tooth, overcome the urge to eat candy, and help manage hunger pangs to hold you over until your next meal.
- **Count the empty wrappers.** It's so easy to pop fun-size candy bars into your mouth that you can lose track of how quickly the calories are adding up. If you keep the wrappers on your desk, it will remind you of how many you ate and hopefully inspire you to exercise moderation and stop after one or two.
- **Take a walking break.** Getting away from your desk for a breath of fresh air can invigorate you and help you get over the mid-morning or mid-afternoon slumps that are often mistaken for hunger.
- **Manage your hunger.** Eat breakfast before coming to work and plan for a few healthy snacks along with a satisfying lunch. Your preplanned meals will keep you feeling satisfied and make you less likely to raid the candy bowl.
- **Sip on a low-calorie beverage.** Keep your hands and mouth busy by drinking a zero-calorie cup of hot tea (rich with disease-fighting antioxidants) or big glass of water. And light hot chocolate can satisfy your sweet tooth for few calories than most fun-size chocolate bars.

