



http://www.halloweentombstones.com/halloween-tombstones_pm1.html

HALLOWEEN TOMBSTONES - PLACEMENT

The placement and securing of your Halloween tombstones is very important, both for appearance and to keep them from falling over. If you want the ultimate in Halloween fright, build a replica of a graveyard like the real one on our Ultimate Graveyard page, with a simulated wrought-iron fence. Watch for our graveyard fence plans coming soon! We like to keep our cemetery looking old and foreboding. Use as many different styles of tombstones as you can and place them unevenly throughout your graveyard. Be sure to set some of them crooked or misaligned to give it that unkempt look.



When arraigining your tombstones remember that graves in a "real" cemetery are usually spaced about 7 feet from row to row, but you can take a few liberties with distances. While you don't have to space them out just right, you do want to give the illusion of there really being graves there, so you want to space out your tombstones. Leave at least a foot or two between the stones side to side, and 4 feet or more from row to row. We like to tilt some of the tombstones so that the graveyard looks old and dilapidated.

Securing the Tombstones - We have used several different methods to secure our tombstones to the ground that work very well.

Method #1 - First carefully drill two 3/8" holes into the bottom of the tombstone, a couple of inches from each end. Now take two 16" pieces of 3/8" dowel (sharpened at both ends) and carefully drive one end half way up into the bottom of the Tombstone. Lightly set the tombstone with it's spikes onto the ground to make an impression of where the spike holes will go. Using an extra sharpened dowel, drive it eight inches into the ground where your spike markings are and remove. You can now push the tombstone with spikes into the holes.

Method #2 - At most hardware stores you can buy large steel spikes (they look like giant nails). Measure and cut a piece of 1/2"x 6" board so that it is four inches longer than the width of the tombstone, two inches on each side. Drill a centered hole four to six inches from each end one drill bit size smaller than the diameter of the spike. Hammer the two spikes through the holes. Set the bottom of the tombstone over the top of the spikes just hard enough to make indentations for drilling. Drill the two spike holes into the tombstone. Apply white glue (Elmer's) to the spikes and inside of the spike holes, and push the spikes into the tombstone holes all the way. To setup, dig a

trench the same size as the wooden based and sit the base and tombstone into it. Cover the base with dirt just above the edge of the tombstone.

OUR ULTIMATE HALLOWEEN GRAVEYARD



Graveyard Fence - The graveyard we set up every Halloween covers over 3600 square feet. The gothic entrance way and fence columns were bought from an on-line source. We built the simulated wrought-iron fence itself - Check back to see our "Simulated Wrought-Iron Fence" plans and instructions coming soon. Small pieces of Spanish Moss are added around the base of the fence. Artificial ivy garlands are used to further enhance the idea of an overgrown and untended graveyard, these are available from craft stores.. We then use a Cobweb Spinner or Cobwebs in a Can to spray webs over many, but not all parts of the fence.

Burial Mounds - We have a small truck-load of dirt brought in from a local landscaper and use it to make six to eight inch high burial mounds for about a third of our tombstones. These mounds give the impression of fresh graves in the graveyard. We then scatter old leaves and twigs around the area to give it that untended look.

Tombstones - We use over two dozen high quality tombstones and monuments bought from both Halloween retail stores and on-line stores, attaching some of them to the ground at angles or slightly crooked. All of them are lightly dusted with fine dust. We add some small pieces of Spanish Moss around the bottoms of some of the tombstones and even glue a very small amount to a few of the tombstones. We then use a Cobweb Spinner on most of the tombstones to add webs from the tombstones to the ground. On one of the tombstones we attach an artificial raven to the top as though he was watching over that grave.

Lights - We illuminate our graveyard with blue colored outdoor flood lights that are hidden from the view of passing trick or treaters. The pumpkin patch in the back area is illuminated with three small orange colored flood lights. At the very back of our graveyard and behind the trees, we place a lightning generator. This is a very creepy effect and even has timed sound effects.

Fog - We place three small fog machines each with a Fog Chiller attached that make "ground hugging" fog in the graveyard (visit [Got Fog!](#) for their Fog Chiller plans). These fog machines are all on automatic timers and hidden behind some of our larger tombstones. A larger fog machine is hidden at the very back of the graveyard to produce a thin veil of fog in the air.

Sounds Effects - A CD player is hidden at the back of the graveyard in a tree and set to auto-repeat. We use a special effects CD that has night sounds on it such as wind, an owl hooting, crickets, occasional thunder, etc.

Pumpkin Patch - We even build a fake pumpkin patch towards the back of the graveyard using artificial pumpkins and vines. A large selection of artificial pumpkins and vines can usually be bought at craft stores during the fall months.

Obtained from
Omarshantedtrail.com