

HALLOWEEN

SAFETY TIPS

Tie hats or scarves securely so as not to obstruct child's vision.

Be certain costumes, wigs and beards are flame resistant.

Give your child a flashlight so that he/she can be seen.

Check the length of the costume and fit of the shoes to prevent falling.

Use cosmetics as a mask to give your child unobstructed vision.

Decorate costumes and bags with reflective tape to enhance visibility.

Advise your child not to eat candy or treats until you have checked them.

Young children should be accompanied by an adult or an older responsible child.



Mail Entries To:

**Ocean County Department of Consumer Affairs
P.O. Box 2191, Toms River, NJ 08754
Attention: Gale Ertle**

Freeholder Joseph H. Vicari, Chairman ~ Stephen Scaturro, Director

Prepared & Printed by the Ocean County Printing & Graphic Arts Department

Name: _____
Grade: _____ School: _____
Teacher: _____



Fall 2012
Update

Freeholder
JOSEPH H. VICARI
Chairman

STEPHEN SCATURRO
Director



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732-929-2105
or 732-929-2166

COUNTY OF OCEAN
DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS
DIVISION OF WEIGHTS & MEASURES
"We're Watching Over You"



**A Message From Joe Vicari:
Freeholder Chairman**

**ABOUT THE DEPARTMENT OF
CONSUMER AFFAIRS**

Dear Consumer:

The Ocean County Department of Consumer Affairs is an essential component of the consumer protection system in the state of New Jersey. Our services save consumers and businesses money, relieve the burden on courts, keep the public safe, and help ensure fairness in the marketplace.

We work at the grassroots level, providing consumers and businesses with information about their rights and responsibilities and advice about how to resolve disputes. Unlike most federal agencies, New Jersey CALA offices have the authority to stop unfair, deceptive or fraudulent practices, get restitution for consumers, and ensure that businesses function under the Consumer Protection Act. Because a broad range of complaints and questions are dealt with, our investigators must develop expertise in everything from auto repairs to mortgage modifications to keeping up with the newest scam.

Preventing scams and rip-off's is a vital part of our mission. Outreach programs such as presentations, newsletters, brochures, and television and radio shows are utilized to educate consumers of various ways to help protect them against consumer fraud.

Call our office at 732-929-2105 if you feel you have been cheated in any way by a local business. We are here to help make your wrong, right.



Tips on Buying a Used Car



For most, buying a used car can be a daunting task. In New Jersey if a dealer sells you a car he also must provide a limited warranty. The duration of the dealers warranty depends on the car's mileage at the time of purchase. However, if that car is defective, you may be able to seek relief under the Used Car Lemon Law. In order to be covered under this law, the motor vehicle must have been purchased from a dealer and sold for more than \$3,000, be less than seven (7) model years old, have an odometer reading of no more than 100,000 miles, not been sold "As Is," and not have been declared a total loss by an insurance company.

Always look for the Buyer's Guide. It's required to be posted in plain view on or in the car being offered for sale. The guide must indicate the conditions of warranty, if one exists, or if the car is being sold "As-Is," which does NOT come with any warranty, either expressed or implied. The guide will disclose if there is any manufacturer's warranty remaining or if there is an extended service contract available. A copy of the guide should always be given to you at the time of purchase.

Ocean County Freeholder Joseph H. Vicari, who serves as Chairman of the Department of Consumer Affairs, noted that unlike most contracts, you do NOT have a three day Right of Rescission to cancel your contract when buying either a new or used vehicle.

"This is a common misconception," he said. "Once you sign on the dotted line, it's yours. Don't allow anyone to pressure you into making a decision you are not ready to make"

You should visit several dealerships and don't be in a hurry. It's a wise choice to have a trusted mechanic examine the car for you prior to your purchase. If a mechanics inspection is unavailable you should do the following:

- ✓ Test drive the car. Listen for noises. Make sure all gauges work.
- ✓ Check to see that the oil, transmission and radiator fluids are clean and full.
- ✓ Check for signs of leakage under the car where it's been parked.
- ✓ Check to see that all lights, air conditioning and electronic systems are working.
- ✓ Look for signs of water damage on the headliner (the fabric which lines the interior roof) and on the carpet. Lift up the floor mats also and check inside the trunk.
- ✓ Check for signs of prior accident damage such as body panels that are misaligned or over-spray painted.
- ✓ Look for excessive or unusual tire wear which may indicate an alignment problem. Also check to make sure that the car has a properly inflated spare tire in case of an emergency.

If financing is involved Consumer Affairs Director Stephen Scaturro suggests checking with your bank or credit union for better terms. He also warns to make sure you receive a copy of everything you sign.

Keep in mind that if you don't like the deal being offered or feel pressured – WALK AWAY.

