

How to Build a **TREE MONSTER**

A real-tree cemetery prop for The Hallow Path

Turn a real tree into a haunting cemetery centerpiece using pool noodles, webbing, simple hardware, texture, and paint.

BEFORE



WHAT YOU'LL LEARN



Plan the face
and structure



Build bark-like
texture



Create arms
and claws



Finish with paint,
moss, and lighting



REAL TREE.
REAL MATERIALS.
AMAZING RESULTS.

Materials & Prep

WHAT YOU NEED BEFORE YOU BUILD

Get everything ready for your tree monster with this materials list and prep checklist.

MATERIALS CHECKLIST



- ☐ Real tree with a natural hollow or strong trunk feature



- ☐ Pool noodles



- ☐ Screws, bolts, zip ties, wire, or twine



- ☐ Tape



- ☐ Caulk or expanding foam



- ☐ Primer and paint: brown, black, gray, green



- ☐ Texture additive (Homax Tread Tex or similar)



- ☐ Moss, webbing, and optional spiders



- ☐ Basic tools: drill, knife, snips, cutters, gloves

REAL TREE.
REAL MATERIALS.
AMAZING RESULTS!



PREP STEPS

- 1 Study the tree and mark the face placement.
- 2 Decide where the eyes, brow, mouth, and arms will go.
- 3 Cut and pre-fit your pool noodle shapes.
- 4 Gather fasteners and hideable attachment points.
- 5 Test your lighting before final assembly.



SAFETY NOTE

Work carefully around the real tree. Avoid damaging live bark more than necessary, wear gloves, and keep sharp tools away from children.

Build the **FACE**

Shape the **monster** into the tree

REAL TREE.
REAL MATERIALS
AMAZING RESULTS!

1 STUDY THE TREE



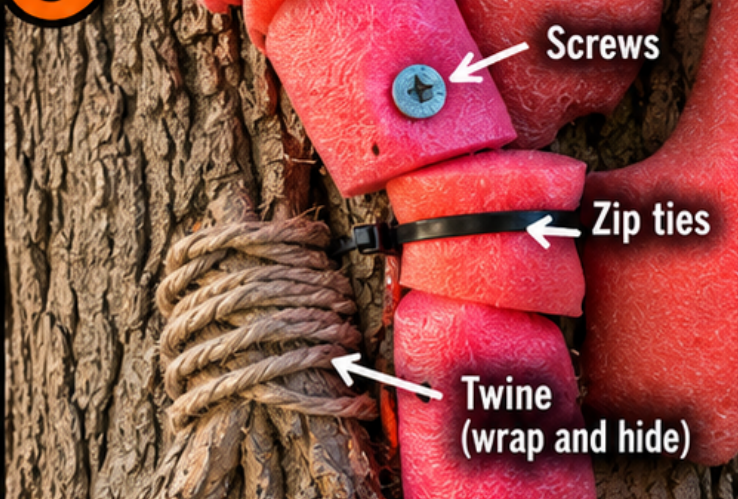
Use the natural hollow and trunk lines. Mark where the eyes, brow, and mouth will go.

2 BUILD THE FACE SHAPES



Cut pool noodles to form the brow, cheeks, nose ridge, lips, and teeth shapes around the opening.

3 ADD STRUCTURE



Secure the shapes with screws, zip ties, wire, or twine. Hide fasteners wherever possible.

4 TEXTURE THE MONSTER



Coat the noodle forms with caulk, expanding foam, and texture additive. Blend them into bark-like forms with your hands and a putty knife.



TIP: Oversize the face so it reads clearly at night.

Finish the MONSTER

Bring it to life in the cemetery

5 CREATE ARMS AND CLAWS



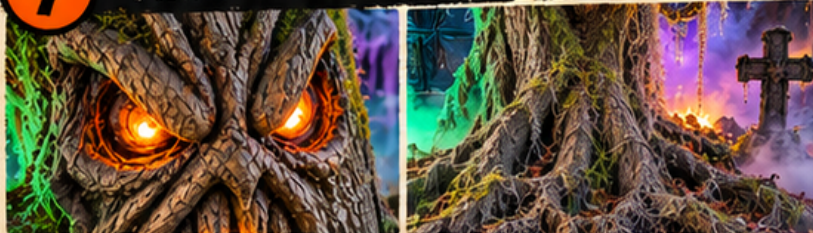
Build branch-like arms using more pool noodles over a support such as branches, PVC, or wood. Secure them well and shape long claws so they are readable from a distance.

6 PAINT AND AGE



Prime the whole build, then paint with bark browns, gray, black, and touches of green. Dry-brush lighter tones on raised texture for realistic bark.

7 FINAL SCARE DETAILS



Add moss, webbing, spiders, roots, fog, and lighting. Use green or purple uplighting and a warm orange glow inside the mouth or eye area for extra drama.



PRO TIPS

- Hide fasteners with texture, moss, and paint.
- Use the tree's existing shape to guide the design.
- Dry-brush lighter bark colors for realism.
- Add a real finished build photo in future updates.

This real tree monster is The Hallow Path mascot.