

Pumpkin Mat

3 to 4 medium size pumpkins

Cut off pumpkin at both ends, remove seeds. Peel with a sharp knife using sawing motion, working small sections from top to bottom (See Figure 1). Repeat until entire pumpkin is peeled. Make a long spiral strip approximately 1 inch wide (See Figure 2) or slide crosswise and slit rings to hang. Hang strip to dry for one to two days (longer if indoors). Place dried strips on hard surface and pound flat with smooth side of wooden mallet. Place half of the strips in a row, close together. Weave, using the remaining strips, by lifting every other strip (See Figure 3). To start another piece, overlap and continue to weave. When mat is completed, secure by tucking ends under. When the mat is woven, pound lightly. It will dry completely in about a week.

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