

Caring Clowns International



Props

A prop is anything you want to use as a clown that will help you connect with your audience to make them laugh.

A prop can be simple or technical -anything that will bring a chuckle or two. Whatever it is, a prop should never be offensive to anyone.

Like clown faces and names, it is an unspoken rule that one never steals a prop or gag that another clown uses.

Props that you can put in your pocket are great to engage your audience one-on-one and in small groups when you are doing walk-around clowning.

A prop can be a simple trick, or magic, and something absolutely dumb (which makes fun of you, the clown, and let's your audience feel good by laughing at you. They get the joke and you don't!)

For some, a prop can be a "trademark" of their comic persona...like Charlie Chaplin with his cane and hat.

Developing Your Own Props

Imagination is key to developing your own props and using them. With the right funny story, anything can be a prop.

The personalized prop is nothing without the funny story you wrap around it. As you use props, you will develop your own stories to go with each one.

Duffy always wears glasses with no lenses in them. These are a prop. He will get someone's attention, take them off, pretend to clean them, putting his fingers through the frame so his audience can see there are no lenses, and say something like, "Ya know, these are the cleanest glasses I have ever had,! 'Course I can't see anything with them, but Man are they clean!"

Buying Ready-made Props

In addition to thinking up your own unique props (which can be the best!) using everyday items, you can find props in stores and on-line at clown supply and magic shop websites.

Some examples of props are:

- Wands
- Silks
- Sponges
- Juggling items
- Puppets
- A magic coloring book
- Card and rope tricks
- Hand magic tricks

Props can also work with other props, or be incorporated in to a gag. The prop can be used one-on-one or in a routine with other clowns.