



## April Fools' Day Pranks That Won't Cost a Thing

The best April Fools' Day pranks are cheap or free. They usually have the added benefit of being simple — no elaborate Rube Goldberg machines or costly, time-consuming planning necessary. Here are 18 ideas to get you started.

- **Print out the single word "PUSH" and tape it to a door that should be pulled.** It barely qualifies as a “prank”, but it is funny.
- **Offer a friend a few M&Ms, but slyly give them Skittles instead.** It’s amazing the shock you’ll get when someone takes a handful of the unexpected flavors.
- **Put tape over the optical sensor of someone's computer mouse or TV remote control.** Watch how quickly confusion turns to anger and frustration!
- **Stretch some plastic wrap across a doorway** at shoulder height. You'll be amazed by how many people will simply walk right into it.
- Along the same lines, if a sibling leaves his or her drink or water bottle unattended, take the lid or cap off, **apply plastic wrap, and replace the lid.** There will be a moment of priceless confusion when the drink refuses to come out.
- Expanding on the previous one, take **a pin or needle to poke holes around the rim of a plastic disposable cup** so that it'll leak when used. Increase the excitement by then shuffling the stack of cups, so you'll never know who is going to pull the gaffed glass. But remember that if you do this one, YOU should be the one to clean up the mess!
- Here's one that's great for your friend's computer: When they're away, **scamper over to their computer and press ctrl+alt+down arrow.** This will turn their monitor display upside down, and they'll have to figure out how to fix it using their upside-down screen!
- **Here's an ANTI-PRANK: Get some candy, and suspiciously offer it to your friends** with an evil smile of anticipation. When they hesitate (and they will), tell them it's their loss and they can watch as you eat it yourself. The prank is in the fact that there was no prank at all! And nothing is worse than the realization that you just gave up free candy!

Okay, some of these pranks are just *cruel*, right? Please make sure you choose the right audience at the right time, and that the prank is quickly remedied. And don't dish it out if you can't take it!