

## How long do balloon sculpture usually last?

The lasting quality of balloon sculptures will depend on the size of the balloons used, the type of structure built, and its exposure to numerous environmental conditions. Balloons (especially dark colors) expand in the heat as well as in high altitude and contracts in the cold. Water will weigh heavy on balloons and static will cause friction. Wind is another deterrent for balloons; the constant flow of air around the balloons will cause the helium molecules inside to escape faster.

You can help your balloon sculptures last longer by keeping them in a cool place out of direct sunlight, and away from heat-and-static-producing electronics, like TV's and computers. Static and invisible fibers on ceilings can cause balloons to pop. Allow your balloons to remain tied to an anchor for at least five hours before releasing them to the ceiling. This allows the balloons to shrink enough so that the skin becomes thicker and tougher.

Helium-filled 11" latex balloons will typically last up to 14 hours. When treated with hi-float, a non-toxic sealant which coats the inner walls of the balloon and effectively reduces the time for helium to escape, latex balloons can last up to 2 to 3 days indoors. However, float time can be significantly reduced depending on temperature and humidity.

Helium-filled foil (mylar) balloons will remain full and taught for 3-5 days. The bigger the size of the foil balloon, the longer it will float. Foil balloons will appear deflated in cold air (including in air-conditioned climates) and will fill out again when warmed up. Be extremely careful when placing balloons in a hot car, they will expand and may cause them to pop prematurely.