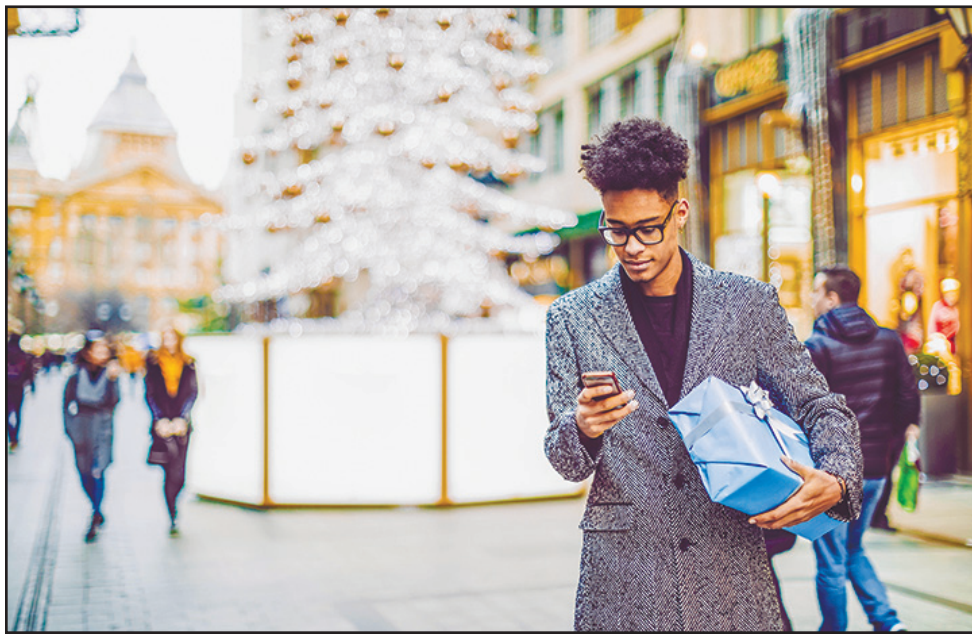




# Holiday Gift Guide



## Beat the holiday hustle with these shopping strategies



It's beginning to look a lot like the holiday shopping season. The four- to five-week period between Thanksgiving and Christmas is one of the most frenzied times of year, especially for shoppers.

According to recent research from Needle, an advocate-powered e-commerce company, shoppers report feeling more stress from holiday shopping than they do from family obligations and holiday travel. Eighty-four percent of consumer respondents in Needle's survey stated that gift-giving caused them stress. Finding the right gifts for everyone can be particularly challenging.

While it may not be possible to remove all of the stressors surrounding holiday shopping, these tips may help make the job more manageable.

- Outline everyone on your list. Santa has it right by making a list and checking it twice. Only by writing a list will you be able to ensure you do not forget anyone. Savings expert Lauren Greutman from Flipp, a Canadian savings app, suggests including teachers, coworkers and service people in addition to family and friends on the list.

- Track deals and coupons. Sticking to a budget is easier when you utilize tools that help you save even more. Resources like Honey and Retail Me Not will automatically apply coupon codes at checkout to make sure you are getting the lowest prices possible online. Social media, retailer websites and third-party apps also can be great plac-

es to find bargains.

- Protect personal information. The Federal Trade Commission says to protect yourself financially by shopping only on secure websites with an "https" address. Stick with retailers that tell you what they do with your data and how they keep it secure. Consider creating a separate email address and/or account password for shopping retailers to reduce identity theft and other fraud.

- Shop early. Bank of America says one of the easiest ways to overspend is waiting until the last minute to shop and then having to settle for what's available, regardless of prices. Spread out purchases and begin holiday shopping before prices increase.

- Be wary of fake coupons. The internet has made shopping and researching easier but also more complicated at the same time. A deal that seems too good to be true may be just that. Counterfeit coupons are phishing scams that can end up compromising personal information when you click on them.

- Take advantage of warehouse stores. Make the most of that membership fee by buying the bulk of your gifts at a warehouse store to save time and money. These retailers carry everything from jewelry to electronics to clothing. Also, they sell gift baskets or boxes around the holidays that can be divided into multiple gifts, saving you even more.

There are many ways to make holiday shopping easier and more affordable.

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# Get to know favorite wines for giving



A glass of wine makes a nice accompaniment to a meal or something to enjoy and sip while conversing with friends in social situations. Many people have a favorite style of wine, and some even have a favorite vineyard. In addition, the popularity of wine makes it a versatile gift for the holidays or something to bring along to a holiday party as a hostess present.

Novice wine enthusiasts may be interested in learning more about wine so they can choose their wine selections for gifting and enjoyment more readily. According to the experts at Wine Enthusiast, learning to taste

wine and differentiate between flavors is similar to appreciating art or music. Understanding the varieties can simplify the process of selecting wines.

- Cabernet Sauvignon: This is a full-bodied red grape heavily planted in the Bordeaux region of France. Cabernet generally has high levels of alcohol and tannins.

- Merlot: The smoothness and mild flavor of this red wine make it a great option for those who need an introduction to red wine. This wine is lower in tannins than Cabernet Sauvignon, and it tends to have a more fruity flavor profile as well.

- Cabernet Franc: This is a light- to middle-weight wine that features a high acid content and savory flavors.

- Malbec and Carménère: Similar to Merlot, these grapes originated in France

but then made their way to other regions of the world. Malbec is most popular in Argentina, while Carménère is grown in Chile.

- Zinfandel: Although mostly associated with the

rosé wine White Zinfandel, Zinfandel is actually a medium-bodied red wine that originated in Croatia.

- Pinot Noir: Soft tannins and high acid give this light-bodied red wine its appeal. The grapes were first widely planted in France but can now be found elsewhere.

- Chianti: Chianti is the most famous Italian red wine in North America. It's a dry red that pairs very well with food. Chianti, which comes from the Chianti region in Tuscany, is made exclusively with Sangiovese grapes, or at least 80 percent of them and other blends.

- Chardonnay: This is a medium- to full-bodied dry white wine. The Chardonnay grape is a white grape from the Burgundy region of France.

- Sauvignon Blanc: Citrus-driven and often light-bodied, Sauvignon Blanc is another dry white grape

planted widely in France. It also is a parent grape to Cabernet Sauvignon.

- Pinot Gris/Pinot Grigio: Pinot Grigio is a zesty, dry white wine that is particularly associated with Italy even though it originated in France, where it is thought to be a mutation of the Pinot Noir grape. Pinot Grigio skins are not green like other white grapes, but have a gray hue, hence the name.

- Reisling: Those who prefer a sweet white wine can opt for Reisling, which can be traced to Germany. It can be a good match for those who appreciate other sweet white wines, such as Moscato or Gewürztraminer.

There are many wines to tempt palates. When gifting, the selections mentioned above can tempt foodies and budding sommeliers alike. Understanding the varieties can simplify the process of selecting wines.



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# Holiday gift ideas from Woodcraft



(MS) — Give family and friends who are makers holiday gifts to bring comfort and efficiency to their work areas, provide new project challenges and add some family fun for good measure. Visit your local Woodcraft store, check the Woodcraft catalog or go online at woodcraft.com to learn more

about the products described here plus thousands more.

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into any standard household light socket. Adjustable LED panels can be tilted 90° for light direction.

The Kreg Mobile Project Center KWS 1000 is a workbench, sawhorse, assembly table, and clamping station all in one — a versatile work space for DIY, repair and woodworking projects. It is easy to set up and folds to 61 1/2" thick for storage.

Sharpen circular saw blades, knives of all kinds, scissors, gardening shears and loppers, lawn mower blades and more indoors or outside with the M.Power 5N1 Double-Sided Diamond File with Handle.

Frameless Pyramid Itek Safety Glasses protect the wearer's eyes in applications and environments where a full field of vision is ideal, if not essential.

## WOODBURN A GIFT AND MORE

Woodburning, also called pyrography, involves burning a pattern into wood or other material such as leather. Patterns may then be colored or otherwise embellished. Woodburning is an easy way to add your personal touch to gifts and ornaments. Learn how to make ornaments in this Woodcraft blog: <https://bit.ly/woodburnornaments>.

The Wall Lenk 10-in-1 30 Watt Woodburning Tool and Accessories make it easy to begin woodburning and can also be used for soldering, leather craft, stencil, and Styrofoam cutting.

Learn the basic woodburning concepts and tips and techniques

to inspire your creativity in Learn to Burn by award-winning artist and pyrographer Simon Easton.

## HANDY HELPERS FOR FINE FINISHING

Gift your favorite finisher with the Earlex Super Finish Max Sprayer that has its 450-watt motor built into the sprayer to create a self-contained HVLP system. It is ideal for custom-made furniture, cabinets, trim, spindles, craft projects, and even fences and walls. It works with oil- and water-based finishes. To learn more about this sprayer, read the blog or watch this video: <https://bit.ly/SuperFinishMax>.

To help reduce overspray, Wagner Spraytech Spray Shelters are ideal. Small shelter (21 1/2' x 3' x 31 1/4') and medium shelter (4'7" x 4'7" x 5'6") each have a built-in floor. Large shelter (6' x 9' x 5.5') has no floor so use of a drop cloth underneath is recommended.

The lightweight Elipse Respirator OV/P100, available in two sizes, has an active carbon filter that makes it the perfect respirator for finishers. It is approved for paint vapors up to 5,000 parts per million, solvents, and Cyclohexene. It also offers protection against other dangerous fumes.

For finishing by hand, Redtree Onyx White China Bristle Brushes work for solvent-based coatings, including enamels, varnishes, urethanes, lacquers, and shellac. Redtree Brush Matey Synthetic Bristle Brushes work for water-based coatings.

Author Teri Masaschi shows how to choose, use and apply the perfect finish in Foolproof Wood Finishing, Revised Edition. Readers learn step-by-step as they work their way through 51 proven and easy-to-follow finishing exercises.

## FUN FAMILY ASSEMBLY PROJECTS

SawDust Bros. Bird Feeder and Birdhouse Kits are perfect family projects to encourage birds to move into the neighborhood. Kits include precut pieces, Cedar shakes for the roof, window trim, detailed instructions, fasteners needed to complete the birdhouse or feeder, and in some cases, Plexiglas. Paint or decorate to suit any style.

PlaySTEAM Rubberband Aeroplane Science Planes Biplane and the High Wing Plane, Low Wing Plane and Seaplanes are educational kits that provide the perfect outdoor family project. Children age 14 and older will learn about aeronautics and physics as they assemble and fly a plane using the included booklet.

For those who like knives, the Camillus Titanium Fulgur Liner Lock Folder Blade Kit is easy to make. Blade is made of cutlery grade stainless steel. Choose wood or man-made knife scales (sold separately) to shape, mount and finish a custom handle.

Visit your local Woodcraft store or woodcraft.com for more gift ideas and products.

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# Gift ideas for fitness fans



The fitness industry is booming and attracting new devotees every day. Research from the International Health, Racquet and Sportsclub Association says 2017 was a strong year for the health and fitness industry, and several health clubs have built on that success in 2018.

The growth of the fitness industry has included a surge in boutique fitness regimens. While major clubs offer classes, separate boutique clubs also are thriving. Clubs focusing on ballet barre, Cross-Fit® and Orangetheory® are just some examples of the booming boutique fitness industry.

Holiday shoppers with fitness fans on their list can look to their loved ones' love of physical activity when seeking inspiration for

holiday gifts. Purchasing gifts for someone with a specific hobby or interest can often be daunting because enthusiasts may have firm ideas of what they like and want to use. While the same can be said for athletes and people who live active lifestyles, there are plenty of gifts that will appeal to those who embrace fitness as part of their lifestyle.

- **Bluetooth headphones:** Music can inspire and get fitness buffs motivated. Bluetooth headphones connect wirelessly to most devices, and such headphones won't get tangled up while running or hitting the elliptical at the gym. Select a pair that are lightweight and comfortable and securely fit in the ears for ultimate convenience.

- **Reversible yoga mat:** Active yogis know just how much a stretch session can work up a sweat. Throw in an hour of hot yoga, and perspi-

ration will certainly be flowing. Everyone recognizes Lululemon for their comfortable workout attire, but the company also has a reversible yoga mat that wicks away moisture during yoga sessions. When gifting yoga mats, throw in a yoga mat carrier as well.

- **Fitness tracker:** Active people often like to track their progress during a workout or to see just how much they've been moving during the day. Fitness trackers are ideal for this. Different brands come at various price points to make giving easier on the budget.

- **Personal blender:** Diet plays a big role in fitness, and many fitness enthusiasts enjoy protein shakes and smoothies as part of their daily regimen. A personal blender makes enough for a single bottle at a time. Some are designed so the blender tube is actually the receptacle that can be carried on the go.

- **Suspension training kit:** Many workouts are based on counterbalancing body weight to drive up resistance. Suspension training, like the workouts from TRX, utilize a network of straps so athletes can put their body weight to use in a variety of exercises. A portable kit can be set up wherever it's needed.

- **Dumbbell set:** Weight training can boost metabolism and strengthen bones and muscles. When athletes can't make it to the gym, a home set of dumbbells can ensure they still get their strength-training sessions in.

- **Workout bag:** A durable duffel bag that can tote a change of clothes, towel, equipment, and more to and from workouts is a gift any fitness enthusiast can enjoy.

Outfitting fitness enthusiasts with the tools of the trade is a sure-fire way to purchase a holiday-gift hit.

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# What to get young professionals this holiday season



Holiday shoppers relish the moment when a loved one unwraps a gift and immediately smiles widely. Hitting the nail on the head in regard to a holiday gift is its own reward, and there's no shame in looking around for some inspiration to find a gift loved ones will truly cherish.

Shopping for young professionals this

holiday season could be a little tricky, as changes sparked by the pandemic continue to affect work environments. However, shoppers can still find gifts to make young professionals happy this holiday season.

• Home office essentials: Many businesses have welcomed workers back to the office, but some are taking a hybrid approach

to being in the office. Many professionals who once went into the office five days a week are now spending one or two days a week at home. Others may still be working remotely full-time. Holiday shoppers can take this into consideration when shopping for young professionals and look for some basic home office essentials. A comfortable office chair, a monitor that can be paired with a company-issued laptop and even a single-serve coffee pot for young people accustomed to getting their morning coffee on the way into the office can help professionals seamlessly transition from the office to their home office during the work week.

• Messenger bag: Looking the part can boost young professionals' confidence as they begin their careers. A leather messenger bag is a stylish and sophisticated way for young professionals to carry their laptops and other workday essentials to and from work. Professionals working in especially formal environments may prefer a leather briefcase, which creates a more tra-

ditional look for young people who will be entertaining clients or shuffling from one business meeting to another.

• Business card holder: Though they might not be as prevalent as they once were, business cards remain an effective way for young professionals to build their networks. An elegant, monogrammed business card holder can help young professionals make a strong first impression.

• Luggage: Business travel may not be back to its pre-pandemic levels just yet, but many young professionals will undoubtedly still appreciate an upgrade over the luggage they used in college. If designer luggage is a budget buster, look for a sturdy, elegant alternative that young professionals will be proud to tote around on their first official business trip.

Business may still be unusual as the world continues to emerge from the pandemic. But shoppers can look to some old favorites as they search for the perfect gifts for the young professionals on their holiday shopping lists this season.

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# People to tip and gift this holiday season



Are you making a list and checking it twice? If so, don't forget to add a few extra people to that list who are worthy of a gift this holiday season. Certainly friends and family are in mind for presents, but what

about the service providers in your life?

After a challenging year, people in the service industry might benefit from a holiday boost this year more than ever. Here's who you may want to spread some cheer to this

holiday season.

- **Hairdressers and nail techs:** It takes a lot of effort to look one's best, and these individuals help people put their best selves forward. Consider tipping the amount you would normally spend on one visit. If you get your hair or nails done frequently and consider this person a friend, opt for a gift instead, such as a gift card to a nice restaurant or a pampering service for him or her.

- **Babysitter or caregiver:** This person is likely close with the family and may be deserving of more than a tip. Pick an age-appropriate gift you know this person will love. What about a coveted pair of Bluetooth-enabled earbuds or headphones? A gift card to a store you know this person frequents also can be fitting, or a year-long subscription to a streaming music or movie service.

- **Landscapers:** If the same person or crew services the lawn most of the time, a tip of \$20 each is an appropriate amount.

- **Teachers:** Class parents may take up a collection for the teacher and offer one class

gift. If your student is educated by multiple teachers and the school staff is top-notch, consider stocking the staff lounge with snacks and beverages or cater a lunch.

- **Mail carrier:** The mail is delivered six days of the week in any and all weather. Treat your mail carrier to a nice gift, but stick to the rules of the U.S. Postal Service. Mail carriers are not allowed to accept cash, checks or gift cards that can be used like credit cards. Stick to a gift of no more than \$25.

- **Cleaning person:** You rely on this person to keep your home tidy and clean. He or she is deserving of the cost of one visit, according to Roseanne Thomas, author of "Excuse Me: The Survival Guide to Modern Business Etiquette."

Individuals can use their discretion concerning service providers in their lives who may be worthy of some extra cheer this holiday season.



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# Holiday gifts to spark home improvement ideas

People have spent more time at home in 2020 than they likely have in years past. This has provided homeowners with plenty of time to ponder potential upgrades to their homes. After taking inventory of their lifestyles, surroundings and furnishings, people have embarked on construction projects or home interior design renovations in record numbers.

Holiday gifts that cater to projects around the house are likely to be highly valued this holiday season. Here are some ideas for home improvement-related gifts.

- **Home improvement retailer gift card:** Home improvement centers are one-stop shopping for do-it-yourselfers. To help offset the cost of supplies, gift-givers can give a gift card to a neighborhood hardware store.

- **Magazine subscription:** There are plenty of ideas on the internet, but a subscription to a home remodeling or interior design magazine puts inspiration right in homeowners' hands. Pages can be marked or cut out and used on idea boards.

- **Tools and supplies:** Homeowners just starting out may benefit from the basics. Stores often sell starter tool kits that can be used in home improvement-themed



baskets. Experienced DIYers may have a special tool in mind that is outside their budget right now, like a chop saw or cordless power drill. Purchasing one of these items can help projects move along more smoothly.

- **Expert consultation:** Who can't use a little help with their home remodeling efforts? Give the gift of a consultation from an interior designer or professional contractor to help complete plans that may be a little out of reach for the average DIYer.

- **Big-ticket item:** Some friends and family members may want to pool their resources and offer loved ones an over-the-top gift. This can include a backyard playset for children, a storage shed, a pool installation, or even a new appliance package. Gift ideas are endless and only limited by budget.

- **Room re-do:** All it may take is some new linens or accents to transform a room. From throw pillows to curtains to wall art, give the gift of an easy room makeover.

Riding the momentum of increased home improvement projects from the past several months, holiday shoppers can choose home-related gift ideas to keep the projects and ideas flowing.

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