

How to: Holiday Shopping

1) Do Research: What do your friends/family really desire?

Before you venture into the store, do you know who desires what? Really? Are you giving something that they may need or really desire? Or are you giving something that they will have to dust and will end up hidden away in a closet.

The holidays are a tough time of year full of expectations. I challenge you to talk with your loved ones and understand what gifts they may desire. Then choose to give items that meet those desires. After all, how many of us have received a gift that was given because we “should” get a gift. What did we do with it? Set the tone now for truly thoughtful giving.

2) Make a Written List

Prepare your list in advance! This will prevent “impulse buys and overspending. We all know how we feel in January when the credit card bill comes. List on paper the name and gift idea along with budgeted price to spend. Don’t forget also to prepare your list of supplies needed: plan for wrapping paper (or recyclable cloth bags for wrapping in the family gifts) tape, ribbon etc.

Gifts:

Name	Budget	Gift Idea	Size/Services Desired
Jane	\$20	Manicure/Pedicure	My favorite salon

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Supplies:

Reusable gift bags	
Tape	
Ribbon	

3) Shop Online or During non-peak hours

Save on time, parking, and frustration by ordering on line. Many sales can be found online too including money off delivery.

If you must go to the store, shop off-peak hours, when stores open (10am-12pm), or mid-afternoon (2-4pm), to beat parking problems.

Each store is just dying to get you in so you'll spend more than you planned! By taking 20 minutes in advance to make a plan, you will be ahead of the game and have less stress during the season!

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