

CHRISTMAS GIFT GUIDE



Save money with these holiday shopping tips

During a time filled with social gatherings, extravagant gifts and festive décor, costs can add up quickly.

Camille Kowalewski, shopping expert at eBay Canada, shares her advice on how to think outside the box and save when shopping for items on your holiday list.

Party Clothes: Whether you are gifting a fashion item to someone special or adding something new to an outfit, brand is often very important. Consider getting a genuine, name-brand item, but previously used -- you're still getting the label, quality and style, but at a more reasonable price. Plus, with 1960s and 1970s fashion re-emerging, giving the gift of vintage will be right on trend.

Must-have Tech: Tech gadgets are a popular on many wish lists, however these

gifts can break the bank if you are buying the latest, shiny release. Consider purchasing refurbished tech items, which are restored

to like-new condition but come with much smaller price tags. Online marketplaces like eBay let you refine your search by price point and item condition to make finding a great refurbished deal from brands like Samsung, Sony and Dyson quick and easy.



Holiday Décor: Dressing up your space can be a challenge on a budget. When it comes to home décor, focus on the few items that will add that special touch and start online to efficiently find the best prices. Retailers large and small are increasingly offering pre-holiday door-buster deals on their sites and on online marketplaces. Spending a little time on these sites, as well as checking

social channels, can help you uncover great prices on whatever you have your heart set on.

Alternatively, sites like eBay and Kijiji offer a huge inventory of new or lightly used décor. Often, people have purchased prod-

ucts that don't quite fit their needs or have bought decorations that they've only used once. In either case, when they re-sell them at a fraction of the original cost, it's a win-win for both of you.

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Five tips for being fashionably festive

Celebrating in style at office parties, family gatherings and festive affairs can be a lot of fun, but for some, pulling together outfits for all these events can be downright stressful.

Talia Brown, celebrity and fashion stylist, has some tips on how to effortlessly incorporate the latest trends into your outfits without losing that fashionable holiday cheer.

- A blanket scarf is perfect for the boho girl. Wrap yourself up in the office or on your Sunday stroll, it's the perfect way to add colour and pattern into your winter wardrobe. In the evening go for a fine cashmere or silk to freshen up your look.

- The turtleneck has evolved. It used to be an under layer but now it's your statement piece. In a variety of textures, colours and prints, there is a turtleneck for everyone. For evening, wear a fitted turtleneck dress with

a statement necklace. Be the one to turn eyes with this simple yet elegant look.

- The little black dress will never go out of style and is perfect for a holiday party. It can take you from day to night simply by adding a show stopping necklace or an exquisite pair of earrings. Rebekah Price's exclusive holiday jewellery collection on eBay.ca, for example, can add some festive bling.

- For men, the classic black suit is a dashing and timeless choice. Take your suit from day to night by adding a more formal tie.

- As much as we love the elegant heel, sometimes you need to be practical. Stilettos just aren't snow friendly. Be winter ready and go to your party in platform loafers, oxfords or a chunky pair of booties. Opt for a pair with tassel or fringe to stay on trend.

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Find the gift that keeps on giving

Sometimes we wish we could just get a list from our friends and families to ease the stress of finding the perfect gift -- especially for that person who is nearly impossible to please. Here are some gifting ideas for the gift enigmas on your list so you can enjoy a care-free shopping experience this season:

DIYers -- Purchase arts and crafts workshops for friends or family members who have a creative flare. They can put an additional skillset to use and make some personalized holiday décor with their new expertise.

Zenfully Minded -- Gift a spiritual friend with a private yoga class or weekend meditation retreat. They'll appreciate their downward dog away from city life and find inner nirvana in a countryside sun salute.

Foodies -- If their risotto comes out perfect every time, pastry classes might be the way to go -- even a soufflé can unnerve Michelin star chefs. A tour of a vineyard is a great gesture for those who are self-pro-

claimed or practicing sommeliers, too.

The Impossible to Buy For -- A SiriusXM radio is the gift that can please anyone including the goofy dad, the music-loving best friend or even the too hip nephew. With more than 120 channels of music, news, talk, sports and entertainment to listen to, anyone on your list can tune in to hear whatever suits their mood. You can also gift a SiriusXM subscription to someone who may already have satellite radio in their vehicle or an online subscription so they can enjoy through their phone, computer or tablet, wherever they are.

Style Maven -- Gift cards are a fantastic option because you choose any denomination, and you can get one directly from the recipient's favourite retail destination. From homemade knits to haute couture, they're not tied down to one article of clothing.

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