

# Spirit of Christmas

## Catalogues are perfect place to start shopping

Sharing presents with family and friends is one of the true joys of Christmas.

But with today's busy schedules time for gift shopping can be at a minimum. Take heart shoppers - with a little advance planning you can make the most of your time.

**Take Note**  
One of the keys to easy shopping is keeping notes throughout the year.

Whenever you think of the perfect item for someone, take the time to jot it down.

That way, when it's time to begin your shopping, you already have a list started.

Writing down information such as clothes sizes, color schemes, favorite authors or musical preferences can also cut down on shopping time.

**The Catalogue Connection**

Many department stores or mail order houses send out Christmas catalogues early in the season.

Check to see if telephone shopping and home delivery are offered and take advantage of these services.

You can also use catalogues to determine selections before you even set foot in a store.

And, seeing pictures of products can actually help you remember gift requests mentioned throughout the year.

**It's Never Too Early**

Shop in advance. Purchase exotic gifts while on vacation or scour summer sidewalk sales. Even Boxing Day sales can yield something special for next year.

**Hobby Hints**

Hobbies can provide a wealth of gift ideas, so focus on people's pastimes to help you make choices. For instance, if someone is an artist, visit an art store and stock up on supplies.

It'll be one gift they'll really appreciate. Go one step further by presenting the gifts in a decorative basket. If in doubt of what to buy, choose a gift certificate for their favorite hobby store.

**Read All About It**

Check newspapers for craft fair and warehouse sales - they offer a multitude of gift selections.

Near Christmas, newspapers are filled with advertisements that specify locations, times and dates of sales. Use this information to plan an itinerary so you can visit several locations in a short time.



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