

# Colleton Christmas

November ❄️ 2019



The Press and Standard

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Office Location

The Press and Standard

1025 Bells Highway - Walterboro, S.C. 29488

843-549-2586 - Fax 843-549-2446

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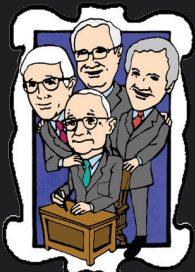
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# Unique Gifts For Him

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- B. Chameleon Backpack Sit System - \$199.99
- C. Stojos Collapsible Cup - Set Of 2 - \$24.99
- D. Duex Monitor + Kickstand - \$234.99

## FOODIE/PARTY HOST



- A. Bourbon, Gin, Rum Infused Fall Firepit Bratwurst Pack - \$89.00
- B. Three Jerk Jerky - Filet Mignon Combo Pack - 6 Bags - \$57.00
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# Three great gifts for the DIY enthusiast

Do you have someone on your Christmas shopping list who likes to spend their free time building things? If you're stumped about what to get them, here are a few gift ideas that you may not have considered.

1. Digital tape measure: a modern version of a classic tool. A digital tape measure can convert measurements from fractions to decimals and inches to centimetres. It also gives precise readings up to one millimetre and will calculate the midpoint of whatever's being measured. Some prototypes also come with a built-in level. A useful tool for many types of projects, this one is sure to quickly become indispensable.
2. Multi-tool: a must-have item for the DIYer who prefers to always keep their favourite tools on hand. More than a regular pocket-knife, a multi-tool can hold as many as 18 tools. Components might include knives, saws, pliers, cutters, awls and



screwdrivers. Most even have a bottle opener for cracking that beer when the job is done.

3. Personalized hammer: almost everybody already owns a hammer, but most don't have one with a personalized handle. Engrave a regular hammer with their name, a special

word or an inside joke between the two of you right on the tool's wooden handle. They'll be so touched, they may decide to decorate their workshop with it rather than use it.

Whatever their passion project, the DIYer in your life is sure to appreciate one – or all – of these thoughtful and useful gifts.

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# Health and fitness gifts they'll love

Looking for the perfect gift for the fitness addict in your life? Or maybe you're hoping to motivate a friend or family member to be more active? In either case, there's a bounty of possibilities. Here are a few types of gifts that will encourage your loved ones to get moving.

## Stocking stuffers

There are a number of small, inexpensive items that would make great stocking stuffers for family members or token gifts for your workout buddies. Some ideas include:

- Workout socks
- Energy bars
- Health magazines
- Safety lights (for running or biking)
- Sunglasses

## Under the tree

Impress them this year with new gear to add to their arsenal. A few ideas include:

- Sports bags
- Exercise mats
- Running shoes
- Active wear
- Sports equipment

To make the most impact, reflect on the person's hobbies and pursuits. For instance, if your brother is a cycling enthusiast, see if he needs a new helmet or seat. Or maybe your sister wants to take up tennis. Get her a racket and tennis balls or even lessons. The point is to take each individual's interests into consideration.

## If they already have everything

If you're unsure what the individual you're shopping for needs, a great idea is to buy them a gift card for their favourite sporting goods store. Or, to really wow them, present them with a gym membership, a sports massage, several sessions with a personal trainer or an appointment with a nutritionist. These types of gifts are almost certain to be appreciated.



Colleton Christmas

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# Unique Gifts For Her

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a



b



c



d

- A. Reusable Whiteboard Notebook - \$39.<sup>95</sup>
- B. Crossbody Phone Case & Strap - \$60.<sup>00</sup>
- C. Connected Friendship Lamps - \$170.<sup>00</sup>
- D. Clip-On Smartphone Lens - \$44.<sup>95</sup>

## PERSONAL



a



b



c



d

- A. Birthstone Ornament - \$24.<sup>95</sup>
- B. Modular Push-Through Pill Organizer - \$34.<sup>95</sup>
- C. Home Pedicure Kit - \$42.<sup>95</sup>
- D. Bright Daylight LED Makeup Mirror - \$100.<sup>00</sup>

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- B. Fingerprint Pendant Necklace Kit - \$109.<sup>95</sup>
- C. Large Quilted Jewelry Case - \$425.<sup>00</sup>
- D. Ophelia Silicone Teething Necklace - \$25.<sup>00</sup>

WINE / DRINKING



- A. Stainless Steel Wine Chiller - \$89.<sup>95</sup>
- B. Premium Sparkling Water Maker - \$219.<sup>00</sup>
- C. Magnetic Drinkware Charms - \$29.<sup>95</sup>
- D. Bluetooth Speaker & Wine Cooler Lamp - \$209.<sup>00</sup>

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JUST  
**5**  
WEEKS LEFT  
TILL CHRISTMAS!

With five weeks left until Christmas, there's still plenty to do to get everything ready for the holidays. Follow this guide.

**TO PLAN**

- Your holiday menus (remember to ask if your guests have any allergies) along with a list of the ingredients you'll need.
- A list of the wines and other alcoholic beverages you'd like to have.

**TO DO**

- Have family photos taken (to send in your holiday cards, for example).
- Make a plan for exchanging gifts with friends and family — consider choosing a budget or theme.
- Sort through your indoor decorations: throw away those that are broken, donate the ones you don't want anymore and make a list of new decorations you'd like to buy.

**TO CREATE**

- Personalized advent calendars for the kids — be creative!



JUST  
**6**  
WEEKS LEFT  
TILL CHRISTMAS!

Is thinking about everything you need to do for the holidays making you lose your mind? Then breathe a sigh of relief: this list will keep you on track so that when the time comes, you'll be ready to sit back and enjoy the festivities.



JUST  
**4**  
WEEKS LEFT  
TILL CHRISTMAS!

Just one short month before the big day! Here's what you should do this week to make sure you get to Christmas at the same time as everyone else.

**TO BUY**

- Holiday outfits for the whole family.
- Holiday greeting cards (you can also make them yourself with your kids).

**TO DO**

- Help your children write and send letters to Santa.
- Write and mail your holiday cards.
- Choose toys and clothes that you no longer use to donate — it'll make room for the presents to come.

**TO PUT UP**

- Indoor decorations — but consider waiting to put up the tree until it's closer to the big day.



**TO START**

- Watching your favorite Christmas movies (you deserve a break from time to time).
- Preparing holiday dishes that can be frozen; this will save precious time on Christmas day.

**TO PLAN**

- Your holiday budget (presents, meals, activities, outfits, etc.).
- The theme and decorations for your Christmas dinner.
- Your guest list. Send out invitations well in advance.
- A list of gifts to buy. Start shopping now, before the stores get crowded.

**TO RESERVE**

- The reception hall, caterer, Santa Claus (or Santa costume), entertainment and more according to your needs.
- Your beauty appointments. Go see your hairdresser or esthetician before the holidays.

**TO PUT UP**

- Outdoor decorations — you'll be glad you got them out before the temperature dropped.

JUST  
**3**  
WEEKS LEFT  
TILL CHRISTMAS!

Time is passing quickly, but you've got the situation under control. Take care of the following tasks and once they're done, you'll be able to start enjoying the magic of the season.

**TO PLAN**

- The table linens and decor (napkins, place mats, centerpieces, etc.).
- Seating arrangements — do you have enough chairs for all your guests?

**TO BUY**

- Wine, beer and spirits for the Christmas dinner.
- Materials for wrapping presents (wrapping paper, ribbons, gift bags, tissue paper, etc.).
- Ideally, the last of your Christmas presents (to

avoid the crowds in the days leading up to Christmas and give yourself time to decide on a plan B if you don't end up finding what you were looking for).



**TO SEE**

- Christmas lights in your community. Take advantage of a nice evening to go for a stroll and admire the lights as a family.

JUST  
**2**  
WEEKS LEFT  
TILL CHRISTMAS!

Christmas will soon be here, so it's time to complete these last few essential tasks before letting yourself relax a bit.

**TO BUY**

- The turkey or whatever you've decided on for your main course.
- All the ingredients for preparing the dishes you'll be cooking for Christmas dinner.

**TO DO**

- Wrap the presents — make sure to keep them hidden until Santa arrives.



**TO START**

- Cleaning the house in preparation for the celebrations.

**TO SEE**

- A Christmas movie at the theatre.
- A Christmas-themed live performance (a ballet, a chorus concert or a holiday play for children).

JUST  
**1**  
WEEK LEFT  
TILL CHRISTMAS!

It's almost here — there's only a few final details to work out.

**TO BUY**

- Fresh produce
- Snack foods
- Hors d'oeuvres

**TO DO**

- Cleaning the house so everything looks impeccable.
- Shovelling and de-icing the driveway, walkway and stairs, if necessary.

**TO BAKE**

- Christmas cookies for Santa (you can also prepare a batch for the reindeer who pull his sleigh).



**TO PLAN**

- Where guests who'll be spending the night at your house will sleep (both planned guests and those who may end up staying over unexpectedly).

And voila, everything is ready for your yuletide festivities; all you have left to do is welcome your guests and let the good times roll.

Merry Christmas!



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# What do food banks really need?



Would you like to give something back this holiday season? Donating money or items to a food bank (or other similar organization) is an excellent way to raise spirits and help those in need. So what should you give? Here are a few nutritious non-perishable grocery store items to consider. Note that breakable containers, such as glass bottles and jars, should be avoided.

- Canned beans
- Canned fish and seafood
- Breakfast cereals (varieties with whole grains and low sugar content are best)
- Pasta (ideally whole wheat)
- Pasta sauce
- Peanut butter
- Canned soup
- Crackers (choose these carefully, because some crackers are devoid of any nutritional value)
- Boxed milk and enriched soy milk
- Canned fruit and sauces (with no added sugar)

People also need staples like oil, spices, broth and flour. Moreover, though healthy foods are important, there's nothing wrong with including a sweet treat or two with your donation. Items that families in need can't usually afford, such as almond butter or mixed nuts, are much appreciated during the holiday season. Think of what you would like to receive!

Other than food, you can also donate personal hygiene products (soap, toothpaste, tampons, tissues), household cleaning items and over-the-counter medications (cough syrup, antihistamines, vitamins). Don't forget about the little ones, whose needs are often abundant and expensive. Young families in need will definitely appreciate diapers, formula and baby clothes.



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**377 Bells Hwy. | Walterboro, SC 29488 | 843-542-9602**  
**CLOSED THANKSGIVING DAY**  
**Open Friday after Thanksgiving 7am - 6pm | Saturday 9am - 6pm | Closed Sun**

## Stairway to Christmas: how to decorate stairs for the holidays



The stairway in your house is the perfect place to show off your Christmas spirit. Here's how to dress up this oft overlooked part of your home.

### DECORATE THE HANDRAIL

- Wrap the handrail with evergreen garlands and decorate them with either berries, pinecones and burlap ribbons for a rustic look, or with Christmas baubles for a more whimsical take. Wrap a string of white or coloured lights around the garlands to add some sparkle.

- Alternatively, you can decorate the handrails with ribbons instead of greenery. Depending on the look you want, you can choose to use either one type of ribbon or a mix of different kinds in an assortment of colours and sizes.

### DECORATE THE STAIRS

- If they're wide enough, put decorations directly on the stairs. Pillar candles (battery-operated ones are safest), wooden decorations and festive figurines can help create the holiday ambience you're after.

### DECORATE THE WALLS AND CEILING

- Ask the kids to make paper snowflakes and use them to decorate the wall along the stairway. You can also display holiday photos from Christmases past. As a final touch, consider suspending large ornaments from the ceiling. Make sure to hang them high enough so that no one bumps their head.

If you follow these tips, your stairway esthetic is sure to please visitors and earn their praise all season long.

*Merry Christmas Y'all!*

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# Games to liven up your gift exchange

Are you tired of the same old holiday gift exchange? If so, here are some fun games to enliven this year's gift giving.

- **Dice.** Every number on the dice comes with an instruction (pass to the left or steal a gift). Take turns rolling the dice until everyone has a present.
- **Hot potato.** This childhood favourite is just as fun to play as an adult. Turn on a holiday song and pass a present from person to person until the music stops. The person left holding the gift is out of the game but keeps the gift.
- **Personal trivia.** Everyone writes a little-known fact about themselves on the gift they contributed. The others must guess who the information is about in order to win the right to open the present.
- **Cards.** Cut some regular playing cards in half and distribute card halves to all



participants. Draw the other card halves from a bowl or hat to determine who gets to choose or steal a gift next.

- **Story.** Rewrite a well-known Christmas story to include the words right, left and across numerous times. To start the game, everyone holds the gift they brought as

someone reads the story aloud. Every time an instruction word is said, the presents get passed in that direction.

To make sure that everyone receives a gift they'll enjoy, be sure to decide on a budget and theme beforehand.

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# Gifts for 5 types of enthusiast

Finding the perfect gift isn't always easy, especially when the person you're shopping for is passionate about things you don't know much about. Here are some gift ideas for five types of enthusiast.

1. **Coffee lovers.** An insulated travel mug, beans from a local roaster, an espresso maker, a conical burr grinder, coffee flavoured chocolates, double-walled coffee glasses, travel coffee press or coffee-scented candles.
2. **Yarn crafters.** Books or magazines with knitting and crocheting patterns, a row counter, a yarn bowl, a set of needles or hooks, a project bag, a tool case, personalized stitch markers, high quality yarn or a gift certificate to a yarn store.
3. **Aspiring writers.** A mechanical keyboard, a laptop tray, noise-cancelling headphones, a fountain pen, personalized notebooks, a Bluetooth keyboard for their tablet, an external hard drive, books about writing or a printer.
4. **Tabletop gamers.** A dice bag, a wooden card holder, plastic card protectors, a board game bag, custom game organizers, a play mat, a component organizer, new dice, a custom character figurine or an expansion pack for their favourite game.
5. **Environmentalists.** Reusable stainless steel or silicone straws, reusable produce bags, silicone snack and sandwich bags, a reusable water bottle, jewelry made from recycled materials, beeswax food wraps for leftovers or a vegan cookbook.

Buying a gift that speaks to your loved one's interests will show them that you care.



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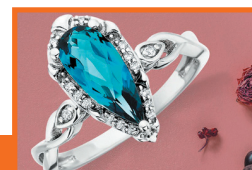


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**Christmas checklist**

To avoid holiday mayhem, you need to remain organized in the days and weeks leading up to the main event. Here's a checklist that will help you keep track of everything that needs to be done before Christmas.

**Entertaining**

- Choose a theme for your party if you're having one
- Make reservations (caterer, event space, restaurant, cleaning crew, Santa Claus)
- Send out invitations
- Decide on a menu (don't forget to consider your guests' allergies and dietary restrictions)
- Make separate grocery lists for what can be purchased weeks in advance and what must be bought in the days before
- Start cooking (make dishes in advance and freeze them)
- Make a seating plan and choose the table decorations
- Obtain any extra dishes, napkins or chairs you need
- Choose the music and plan party games
- Clean the house from top to bottom
- Prepare a room for overnight guests
- Make sure your driveway and walkway are clear

**Buying gifts**

- Organize a gift exchange

- Start shopping early to avoid crowds
- Make note of what to buy for each person on your list
- Write Christmas cards and send them out early to ensure they arrive before the holiday
- Help your kids write their letters to Santa and send them off
- Buy wrapping paper, ribbons and bows
- Wrap gifts as you buy them to avoid doing it all at once, and hide them until the big day

**Decorating the house**

- Go through your decorations and throw out and replace anything that's broken
- Hang outdoor decorations before the cold weather arrives
- Decorate the inside of your house
- Don't set up your natural Christmas tree until a week or two before the day (or it will be dry by the time Santa arrives)

**Getting yourself ready**

- Make your appointments early (hair, esthetics, makeup, nails) to be sure you get the time slot you need
- Shop for your party clothes and visit the tailor if adjustments are needed

Keep this checklist handy to make sure you don't forget anything this season.

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# How to choose a host or hostess gift

If you get invited to someone's home over the holidays, it's best not to arrive empty handed. However, it can be hard to know what to bring, especially if the host or hostess is a relatively new friend or acquaintance.

Fortunately, there are number of things – wine, chocolate, coffee, tea, fancy hand soap and unscented candles, for example – that make great gifts when you don't know the recipient very well.

However, if you do know them, you could offer your host or hostess something that you think they'll appreciate. If they love to cook, for instance, a cookbook or an inexpensive kitchen gadget would be ideal.

Whatever you bring, make sure it's not something that makes your host or hostess work. For example, if you choose to bring a bouquet of flowers, arrange them in a vase before arriving so they don't have to.

Remember, this gift is meant for the hosts to enjoy after the guests have gone home. They're not obliged to share it with you or anyone else, so don't expect them to.



## Winter Marg

- 1 oz. reposado tequila
- 1 oz. mezcal
- 1 oz. lime juice
- 3/4 oz. simple syrup
- 1 egg white



## Jack Frost

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- 1 c. Champagne
- 1/2 c. Blue Curacao
- 1/2 c. lemonade



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# Christmas without the cooking: how to hang your apron for the holidays

If the thought of creating a holiday spread from scratch doesn't excite you, then give yourself the gift of not cooking this year. Here's where you can get meals made by someone else.

## Restaurants

There are plenty of eateries that remain open over the holidays. Book a table at one nearby for your holiday feast. Or better yet, order some takeout and eat in the comfort of your own home.

## Caterers

If you're hosting a party, consider hiring a caterer. Not only will this professional work with you to come up with the perfect menu, but they'll also do all the work.

## Grocers

Many businesses, including grocery stores, butcher shops and local restaurants, offer pre-made meals that are perfect for nights you want to eat in.

## Personal chefs

For a real treat, hire a personal chef to come to your home and create an intimate meal for

you and your loved ones. It's the perfect no-cook solution for a small gathering with friends or even a New Year's Eve party.

This year, simplify your holiday season by letting someone else do the cooking. Don't be surprised if you love this hands-off approach to the holidays so much that you do it again next Christmas.

A cartoon illustration of three elves on a roof. One elf is carrying a large wooden board, another is using a hammer, and a third is holding a clipboard. A large red sleigh is on the roof, and a brick chimney is visible. The scene is set against a blue sky with stars.

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# 10 gifts outdoorsy types will love

Are you looking for a gift for the outdoor enthusiast in your life? If so, here are some ideas.

## FOR THEIR NEXT ADVENTURE

1. A portable water filtration bottle or straw
2. Binoculars
3. A kit to turn the flashlight on their phone into a lamp
4. A military grade compass
5. A down jacket or rain coat
6. A wireless charger for their electronics – one that's solar powered is ideal
7. A portable camping stove and mess kit

## TO INSPIRE THEM

8. A wilderness survival book
9. Novels and memoirs about outdoor adventures
10. A birdfeeder to bring wildlife to their backyard

To really spoil your outdoor enthusiast, consider buying them a pass that will grant them access to the country's national parks for a year. No doubt, they'll love exploring the Canadian wilderness.



## 5 'WILD' BOOKS FOR WILDERNESS BUFFS

- |  |  |   |
|--|--|---|
| 1. <b>Into the Wild</b><br>By Jon Krakauer   | 3. <b>The Call of the Wild</b><br>By Jack London                   | 5. <b>Lost on the Wild: Danger and Survival in the North Woods</b><br>By Cary J. Griffith |
| 2. <b>Wild: From Lost to Found on The Pacific Crest Trail</b><br>By Cheryl Strayed | 4. <b>One Man's Wilderness: An Alaskan Odyssey</b><br>By Sam Keith |   |

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Edisto Community Chorus Christmas Concert  
Edisto Beach Baptist Church
- December 13 • 12:00 pm - 7:00 pm  
Holiday Market and Mingle at Bay Creek Park
- December 14 • 2:00 pm  
28th Annual Edisto Beach Street Parade

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Visit us on Facebook or [edistochamber.com](http://edistochamber.com)

# How to choose the perfect Christmas tree

Do you love seeing and smelling a real Christmas tree in your home? If so, here are some tips for choosing the perfect one.

## DETERMINE WHAT SIZE

Choose a spot in your home to place your tree and don't forget to measure it to make sure you don't come home with one that's too tall. The spot you select should be away from air vents so that the tree doesn't prematurely dry out.

## CHOOSE THE TREE

To choose the right tree, look for one with needles that are shiny and uniformly green. When you crush the needles between your fingers, they should release a strong, fresh scent. Lift the tree and make sure that it's heavy, that the needles stay on and that the trunk is slightly sticky.

## CARE FOR THE TREE

Store your tree outdoors or in the garage until you're ready to decorate it. Right before you do, cut about an inch of the trunk off the bottom. This will allow your tree to soak up the water it needs to thrive indoors.

Put your tree in the stand and fill the basin with water. Make sure to add water daily so your tree doesn't dry up. Wait a few hours for the branches and needles to settle before you start decorating.

A dry Christmas tree is a fire hazard. To minimize the risk, make sure to give it enough water, keep it far from the fireplace and use lights that don't emit heat.



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# Gifts for the people who serve you all year long

The holidays are the perfect time to say thank you to the hairdressers, bus drivers, babysitters, baristas and many others who regularly serve you. If you're wondering what to get them, here are some ideas.

- Pretty hand soaps
- Holiday dish cloths
- Scented candles
- A scarf or shawl
- A soft blanket
- A tote bag
- Premium coffee or tea
- A to-go mug
- A bottle of wine
- A box of chocolates

If you know a little about their tastes, you can also consider something more personal like a book you think they might enjoy, a sweater or a decorative item for their home or workspace.

The point of buying gifts for the people who serve you is to thank them for the positive difference they make in your life all year long. Don't forget to include a nice card with a handwritten message expressing your appreciation.



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# Unique Gifts For Kids

AGES: 0-4



a



b



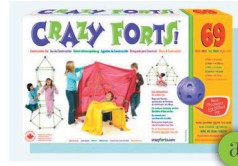
c



d

- A. Giddy Up And Play - Soft Pony With Sound - \$79.<sup>99</sup>
- B. Soapsox Bath Toy - \$11.<sup>99</sup>
- C. Mega Ball Run - Smartmax Magnetics - \$119.<sup>99</sup>
- D. Light Stax Building Blocks - 36 Piece Set - \$29.<sup>99</sup>

AGES: 5-9



a



b



c



d

- A. Crazy Forts - 69 Durable Pieces - \$59.<sup>99</sup>
- B. World Map Pillowcase - Doodle Your Own! - \$19.<sup>50</sup>
- C. Bumper Cars - Two Player Remote Control - \$63.<sup>99</sup>
- D. Interactive Glow T-Shirt - Black - \$19.<sup>99</sup>

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AGES: 10-12



a



b



c



d

- A. Hd Action Camera - Waterproof Case - \$45.00
- B. Slimeball Dodge Tag - Get Slimed! - \$25.00
- C. Remote Control Machines - Custom Cars Usa - \$99.99
- D. Laser Chess - High Tech Strategy Game - \$39.99

AGES: 13-17



a



b



c



d

- A. Infinity Nx - Live Streaming Video Drone - \$69.00
- B. Balloon Dog Light - \$25.00
- C. Pocket Dj Mixer - \$100.00
- D. Live Streaming Selfie Light - \$25.00



# The Holiday Blues...

For many Americans, the end of the year brings images of happy families gathered around a Christmas tree, big dinners of turkey and stuffing, holiday music, and cozy fires.

For others, the holidays can be a much darker and more difficult time – a time of family conflict, financial strain, loneliness, grief, and seasonal affective disorder.

For someone struggling with drug or alcohol addiction, the holidays can be an especially trying time to maintain sobriety.

*If it all gets to be too much, don't be afraid to reach out and ask for help.*



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# Holiday pet hazards to look out for

Keep your four-legged friend safe this holiday season by keeping hazardous products out of paw's reach.

## Food

What's good for you isn't necessarily good for your dog or cat. Many popular holiday foods are actually quite toxic for animals. Keep this list of dangerous ingredients handy while you cook for the humans around the table.

- Garlic and onions
- Alcohol
- Peanuts and tree nuts
- Coffee, tea and soft drinks
- Candy
- Mushrooms
- Chocolate
- Peach and nectarine pits
- Bones and fats
- Grapes and raisins

To avoid unfortunate events over the holiday season, keep your pet on its regular diet and away from harmful foods. You may also want to warn your guests not to feed your animals any "treats" under the assumption that this is a harmless gesture.



## Plants

Traditional Christmas plants, such as holly, mistletoe and poinsettias, as well as potpourri can be very attractive to cats and dogs. Keep them out of reach of your pets.

## Decorations

Holiday decorations are another source of potential danger for your pets. Tinsel, glass ornaments, candles, stringed lights and unstable Christmas trees are a few household hazards to be careful of.

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# What should you put under the tree to spoil your little fur ball?

Do you love your dog more than anything in the world? Would you not be able to live without cuddling with your cat? The following gift suggestions are aimed at all pet owners who are unabashedly crazy about their four-legged friends.

If you want to spoil your pet, keep its age and personality in mind. For example, puppies and kittens, which have energy to spare and love to chew things, will adore a colourful toy that they can destroy to their heart's content.

Is your loyal companion something of a four-legged foodie? Homemade Christmas cookies are a great bet. Go online or visit your local bookstore to find pet-friendly recipes that are as nutritious as they are delicious. These treats are made with healthy ingredients like oats, eggs and fruit – you may even be tempted to take a few bites yourself (for quality control, of course)!

For an older, calmer pet, keep comfort in mind with a gift like a cozy bed or a soft blanket. If Fido or Mittens hates the cold, pick out a snazzy outfit for trips outside. Specialized stores have a wide variety of options for you to choose from; think rain boots, jackets, sweaters and even snowsuits. Visit your local pet shops to browse a selection of irresistibly cute designs.



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# Decking your halls: holiday decorating ideas for the enthusiast

Ready to take your Christmas decorating to the next level? Here are some pro tips that can elevate your holiday embellishments from merely so-so to full out sublime.

## Choose your palette

The pro-decorator's cardinal rule? Choose a palette and stick to it. Make sure your ornaments, ribbons, lights, stockings, gift-wrapping and more are made up of hues from your chosen palette. Here are a few colour combinations to try:

- **Traditional.** Tried-and-true, red, green and gold make up the classic Christmas colour scheme.
- **Icy.** A more modern option, this palette is made up of periwinkle, teal and silver.
- **Jewel.** A vibrant palette of green, purple, orange and red.
- **Metallic.** A glittering and regal palette of silver and gold.
- **Monochrome.** If simple and elegant is more your style, consider a colour scheme made up solely of whites.

## Choose your theme

Next to palette, the most important decorating decision you'll make is in regards to theme. The idea is to take an evocative word or phrase and let your imagination go to work. Here are a few examples:

- **Winter wonderland.** Think white and lots of it. Include elements like snowflakes, tinsel and wintery animals such as reindeer and

moose.

- **Rustic farmhouse.** Use logs, sticks, pinecones, greenery and other natural materials. Plaid patterns are a fitting accompaniment.
- **Christmas cheer.** Combine festive colours like red, green and gold with classic Christmas imagery.
- **West coast Christmas.** Bring the charm of the seaside indoors with shells and starfish and a colour palette of soft pink, blue and beige.



Once you've found your starting point – whether it's a colour palette, a theme or both – you'll find that your ideas start to flow. Happy decorating!

## December Events

**December 2nd-5th  
6:00 - 7:30 p.m.**

**Holiday Movie Nights**

2nd: Jack Frost (1979)  
3rd: Scrooge (1935)  
4th: Babes in Toyland (1934)  
5th: Santa Claus Conquers the Martians (1964)

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# CHRISTMAS MOVIES

## How well do you know your classics?

Do you love a good Christmas movie? Think you know them like the back of your hand? Let's see if you can correctly answer these 15 questions!

### Which movie came out first?

1. Home Alone or National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation?
2. The Santa Clause or Jingle All The Way?
3. The Muppet Christmas Carol or The Nightmare Before Christmas?
4. Elf or The Polar Express?
5. Love Actually or The Holiday?

### What's the name of...

6. The elf played by David Krumholtz in The Santa Clause?
7. The Grinch's dog in How the Grinch Stole Christmas?
8. Doris's daughter in Miracle on 34th Street?
9. Kevin's mother in Home Alone?
10. The two sisters in White Christmas?

### Random trivia

11. What toy is Howard desperately looking for in Jingle All The Way?
12. What does Clark hope to buy with his Christmas bonus in The Santa Clause?
13. What musical instrument does Jack give Charlie in Jack Frost?
14. In which English county is Iris's cottage located in The Holiday?
15. In what fictional city does the Gremlins movie take place?



- ANSWERS**
1. National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation, 1989
  2. The Santa Clause, 1994 (Jingle All The Way, 1996)
  3. The Muppet Christmas Carol, 1992 (The Nightmare Before Christmas, 1993)
  4. Elf, 2003 (The Polar Express, 2004)
  5. Love Actually, 2003 (The Holiday, 2006)
  6. Bernard
  7. Max
  8. Susan
  9. Kate
  10. Betty and Judy Haynes
  11. A Turbo Man action figure
  12. A pool
  13. A harmonica
  14. Surrey
  15. Kingston Falls

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# Merry Christmas!

From our family to yours, please have a safe and happy holiday season!

Wayne McKenzie, Agency Manager  
Jody McMillan, Associate Agency Manager

Jay Schrimpf • Steve Frazier  
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# Must-see Southern Christmas Festivals

Want to soak in some Southern holiday charm? Here are two amazing Christmas festivals to check out this year.

## 1. Christmas Town USA: McAdenville, North Carolina

Every December, this small town on the outskirts of Charlotte transforms itself into a Christmas paradise. All of its public spaces get dressed in red, white and green lights and most private homes do too. The Yule Log Parade opens the annual Christmas Town Festival, where the first 1,000 visitors every evening are given free hot chocolate and kettle corn.

## 2. Bavarian Christmas: Helen, Georgia

Change things up a bit and celebrate Christmas the Bavarian way. This alpine-styled mountain town celebrates Christmas in a big way. Santa and Mrs. Clause make a visit every November to light up the town. Later, Santa comes back for the annual parade that winds its way through cobblestone streets. Don't miss the Christkindlmarkt, a traditional German Christmas market where you can shop for unique gifts for your family and friends.



Whatever festival you attend, be sure to get a photo taken with Santa. Nothing says Southern Christmas quite like a pic of you high-fiving the big guy while wearing shorts or a sundress.

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# 12 days of fun Christmas activities for kids

The holiday season is the perfect time of year to spend quality time with those you hold dear. Are you looking to start some simple yet heartwarming traditions with your children? Our 12 Days of Christmas Fun checklist is full of budget-friendly ideas the whole family can enjoy:

**Day 1:** Help your children write letters to Santa and drop their wish lists in the mail.

**Day 2:** Build a gingerbread house and have your children decorate it with their favourite candies.

**Day 3:** Go on a Christmas lights tour and vote for your favourite displays.

**Day 4:** Make your own holiday cards and write a sweet note in each.

**Day 5:** Make a holiday-themed craft – like a homemade ornament that you can add to your tree each year.

**Day 6:** Go ice skating or tobogganing, then cozy up with a steaming cup of hot cocoa.

**Day 7:** Watch a Christmas movie. The Polar Express, Elf and How the Grinch Stole Christmas are just a few holiday classics.

**Day 8:** Make festive wreaths. Attach some evergreen branches and

pinecones to a foam or wire ring, and have your children add ornaments and bows.

**Day 9:** Rehearse a Christmas play to perform on Christmas Day. Opt for a classic like A Christmas Carol, or put on an original production.

**Day 10:** Donate canned goods to a local charity or collect old toys and drop them off at a toy drive.

**Day 11:** Organize a Christmas carol karaoke night featuring holiday hits like Jingle Bells, Silent Night and Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer, among other classics.

**Day 12:** Have a Christmas PJ slumber party the night before Christmas.



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