



## Clutter-free Gift-giving made Easy!

Gift-giving can be a stressful decision especially for big occasions and around the holidays. Clutter-free gifts are a gift of time, a gift of memories, a gift of an experience, a gift of health, or a gift that helps others who have needs beyond our imagination. Let those you love know how much you care by giving gifts that are clutter-free. Let's break it down:

- Clutter-free gifts
  - Car wash coupons
  - Cooking lessons
  - Dance/Yoga lessons (milestone birthdays)
  - Gym membership
  - Movie tickets
  - Museum membership
  - Pottery/glass-making classes
  - Savings Bonds (purchase online at [www.treasurydirect.gov](http://www.treasurydirect.gov)) and 529 plan contributions
  - Self-defense classes (graduating seniors)
  - Tattoo in honor of someone
  - Tickets to the symphony
  - Tickets to the theatre
  
- Gift cards (not entirely clutter-free):
  - Garden nurseries, home improvement stores, and bookstores
  - Gas stations, grocery stores, and convenience stores
  - iTunes, eMusic, and Ticketmaster
  - Restaurants, coffee shops, and fast food restaurants
  - Spa, facial, and massages
  
- Non-profit gift-giving
  - Cash donation to a charity in honor of the recipient. Let the recipient know via a card.
  - Give a gift certificate so they can choose what charity to donate to: [www.justgive.org](http://www.justgive.org).
  - International Relief Fund: [www.oxfamamericaunwrapped.com](http://www.oxfamamericaunwrapped.com)
  - Green gifts for global impact: [www.thegreenguide.com](http://www.thegreenguide.com).
  - Life-sustaining gifts to help abolish global poverty or renew our planet's environment: [www.altgifts.org](http://www.altgifts.org).
  - Donate an animal in honor of someone: [donate.worldvision.org](http://donate.worldvision.org) or [www.heifer.org](http://www.heifer.org).
  - Find the closest toy drive: [www.secretsanta.org](http://www.secretsanta.org).
  - Give a tree in honor of someone: [www.newgrowth.com](http://www.newgrowth.com).
  - Donate a book on health information to communities all over the world at [www.hesperian.org](http://www.hesperian.org).

- Gifts of time
  - Join a friend (instead of exchanging gifts): local art studio classes, yoga, book club, film club, scrapbooking classes
  - Babysitting coupons for nieces, nephews and grandchildren
  - Take a child: to lunch, on a day trip, to the museum, to a local college for a sports event, to the zoo.
  - “First Christmas Together” (or other name) coupon book: Make a list of the things you know your partner would enjoy and include practical and fun things: for example, a backrub, do the dishes for a week, make a candlelight dinner, do grocery shopping, etc.
  
- Can’t go clutter-free? Choose a gift that donates a portion of its profit to a non-profit agency. Verify the charity at [www.give.org](http://www.give.org).
  - Buy Christmas, Hanukkah, or general cards that donate profits to your favorite charity
  - Gifts that support disease research
  - [www.CafePress.com](http://www.CafePress.com)—charity T-shirts and gifts
  - [www.agreatergift.org](http://www.agreatergift.org)—fair trade gifts
  - [www.ugandangold.com](http://www.ugandangold.com)—supports coffee farm in Uganda
  - [www.redcross.org](http://www.redcross.org)—designate the victims of recent disasters
  
- Gift-giving on a budget
  - During the holidays, pick a name from a hat with all the adults in your family. Family members with limited budgets will be relieved.
  - Set a limit on gifts for children under age 16.
  - Set a budget and stick to it. Celebrate the holidays without creating a financial hardship.
  - Make a list of your gift decisions before you shop.
  - Don’t shop to get ideas or buy gifts for future gift-giving.
  - Limit the number of shopping trips you make or better yet, shop online!!

“The greatest gift is a portion of thyself.” Ralph Waldo Emerson

