

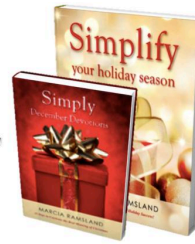


Simplify

Your Holiday Season

Turn Seasonal Stress into Holiday Success!

with Marcia Ramsland
The Organizing Pro and Holiday Coach
www.organizingpro.com



50 Money-Saving Holiday Gift Ideas

Dear Busy Holiday Friend,

Gift giving can be one of the biggest stresses of the holidays, but not anymore!

Once you have a gift list full of ideas and gift-wrapping center set up, holiday shopping can begin to take shape. The goal is giving a thoughtful, budget-friendly gift that will make the person smile without the usual stress. How can you do that?

Change the Way You Go About Finding the Perfect Gift

The Old Way was to ask, “What do you want for Christmas?” which essentially backed someone into a corner with no answer. You were stuck guessing what they might want and **probably spent too much time and money buying what you hope would make them happy.**

The New Way is to ask, “Do you have an Amazon Wish List? I’d really like to get you something you’d like.” Voila! **Now you’ve given them some direction** and they can say, “No, but I’ll make one for you” or “**No, but I have some other things in mind and can send you some ideas.**” You now have the chance to get the perfect gift within your budget. A Win-Win for both of you!

How Else Can You Find Money-Saving Gifts?

- ◆ In this download I’m sharing “**10 Money-Saving Holiday Ideas**” by Ellie Kay from my popular planning book, *Simplify Your Holiday Season*. Ellie is one of 14 experts that shared 10 Holiday tips in my book.
- ◆ Check out my list of a **12 “Gift Theme Ideas”** and **30 more gift ideas** in this download, too. Having ideas will give you direction, calm your stress, and even out your gift spending.
- ◆ Have a big holiday family gathering ahead? **Draw names** to give **one nice big gift** to one person.



My passion is to take the stress out of the busiest season of the year and make it a time to look forward to. The joy is being together and giving gifts within budget & from your heart!

Warmly,
Marcia Ramsland, Your Holiday Coach, Author, & Retailer Holiday Spokesperson

Now you can confidently find the “Perfect Gift” with these tips!

“Coaching Busy People to Make Every Day Count!”

Marcia Ramsland, The “Organizing Pro” * www.OrganizingPro.com/Holidays

10 Money-Saving Holiday Gift Tips

BY ELLIE KAY, AMERICA'S FAMILY FINANCIAL EXPERT™



The average family will create enough credit card debt at Christmas that it will take until the following May to pay it off! There is a less expensive way to survive.

- 1 Strategize.** Decide which gifts you want and match them with sale ads. Check off the items on your Master Gift List and note any special limitations (i.e. price only effective for three hours, limit two per person). Prioritize the stores where you'll shop according to limitations and values.
- 2 Shop for Comparisons.** Once you locate the make and model of a gift you want to purchase, do a search at Bing.com, Slickdeals.com, or Mysimon.com. When you find the best price, print it out and take it into your local store to see if the manager will match the price.
- 3 Save when Shopping Online.** For online coupons, codes for discounts and free shipping, go to RetailMeNot.com, Dealhunting.com or CouponCabin.com.
- 4 Split It.** Follow the divide-and-conquer rule by shopping with a friend or your spouse. If there are multiple purchase discounts, such as "buy two and get the second one at half-price" or a two-for-one special, you can go together and split the savings, thus taking advantage of the offer.
- 5 Save by Baking.** Early in the season, my kids help me make various sweetbreads to freeze. When it comes time to give gifts to teachers or friends, we tie the breads with raffia, cranberries and voila! These gifts taste great and save money.
- 6 Specify.** During the year, set aside a specific "cash" budget each month to use for Christmas. Don't use credit cards unless you know you can pay them at the end of the month.
- 7 Stick to Your Guns.** You may be tempted to keep buying even after you've conquered your list. You can go broke saving money, so stick to your budget.
- 8 Simplify.** When my hubby and I had five babies in the first seven years of marriage, we came up with the "three-gift rule." We modeled our gift-giving after the three gifts brought to the Christ child. We chose three simple, yet nice presents per child. It still works!
- 9 Supervise.** Take younger children to the local Dollar Store for their Christmas shopping for friends and family. Give them an appropriate budget and money, and then let them choose.
- 10 Steal It.** Set aside money for after-Christmas sales. You can oftentimes get nonperishable gifts from 50 to 75 percent off retail and save them for next year. That's practically a steal!

Ellie Kay is the best-selling author of fourteen books, including The Little Book of Big Savings and a frequent guest on ABC, CBS, CNBC, CNN, and Fox News. She has appeared on over 600 radio stations and presents to audiences as large as eight thousand from California to China. She and her husband, Bob, have seven children and live in Palmdale, California. Visit elliekay.com

Simplify with a Gift Theme

Simplify your gift shopping by visiting only certain types of stores for everyone on your list. Choose a giving “theme” for the year, but get a different gift in that theme for each person so it is personalized. For example, all the women get jewelry, spa baskets, gift certificates, or robes. Men get sporting event tickets, restaurant certificates, or tools. Sweaters, CDs, DVDs, or books all make great themes too.

A Dozen Gift Theme Ideas

1. Sweaters for everyone
2. Favorite restaurant or movie gift cards
3. Gloves and mittens
4. DVDs
5. CDs or books
6. Tickets to a play, musical, or retreat
7. Photo book or digital camera
8. A trip or the latest technology
9. Favorite magazine plus a year’s subscription
10. Chocolate, nuts, or gourmet food basket
11. Spa, massage, or bath items
12. Jewelry, purse, or accessories

For Men

(Practical is generally better than sentimental.)

- Tool kit
- Computer software
- Travel clock
- TV, radio, cell phone
- Favorite hobby gear
- Sporting event tickets
- Camping equipment
- Hunting or fishing gear

For Kids

(It’s best to ask for a prioritized list!)

- Age-appropriate toys
- Clothes
- Hobby or sports gear
- Book, CD, or DVD
- Adventure pass or certificate
- Computer games
- Movie tickets

For Women

(Personal is generally better than practical.)

- Spa basket or gift certificate
- Clothes
- Candles
- Cookbook
- Chocolate anything
- Jewelry

General

- Calendar
- Desk clock
- Paperweight
- Food basket
- Chocolate or other candy
- Book or audio book



My Master Gift List

(Year)

Use the Master Gift List as your main Planning sheet all season. Make a neat final copy and store it in the "***Simplify Your Holiday Season***" book pocket to make next year even easier!

Wrapped	Bought	#	Person	Gift Ideas	\$ Budget	Purchased from?	\$ Cost
		*					
		1					
		2					
		3					
		4					
		5					
		6					
		7					
		8					
		9					
		10					
		11					
		12					
				Total	\$		\$

Reprint permission granted from ***Simplify Your Holiday Season*** by Marcia Ramsland at www.organizingpro.com