

# ***6 Tips for an Enjoyable Christmas Shopping Experience***

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There are a variety of opportunities for Christmas shoppers, including stores, catalogues and the Internet. Taking advantage of the shopping opportunities that abound at this time of year means you can do your Christmas shopping and enjoy it!

## **Christmas Shopping Tip 1: Shop Early**

If you're heading out to the shops this Christmas have your shopping list ready. It's a good idea to shop early in the season because, if you wait too long, that perfect gift may already be under someone else's tree.

## **Christmas Shopping Tip 2: Be Polite**

Always remember to be polite...the shops are crowded, the days are long and hot and everyone is frazzled.

## **Christmas Shopping Tip 3: Lay-by**

If you have a big list, but not quite a budget to match, before you hand over the credit card consider a lay-by. Many stores offer a convenient lay-by plan, which allows you to make regular payments up until Christmas. It saves you from having to charge up credit card bills or spend a lot of pocket money all at once, so consider a lay-by if you have a big shopping list. Another advantage of lay-by is that the gifts are hidden until you pick them up, and some stores will let you do that on Christmas Eve (if you're game).

## **Christmas Shopping Tip 4: Shop Online**

If you do decide to shop on the information superhighway this year, it will save you a lot of time standing in line at the shops. You can literally shop worldwide with the click of a button. Browse photos, compare prices, read customer reviews and see a huge variety of products without having to leave home. Some stores offer free shipping, free gift wrapping, quantity discounts and all kinds of other incentives to lure you into their site.

## **Christmas Shopping Tip 5: Place Your Catalogue Orders Early**

If you're shopping from a catalogue this year, be sure to place the order early. The most popular items sell out first, so get your order placed and on its way as soon as possible. There's no need to wait for a catalogue to arrive in the mail because you can log on to the Internet and find many catalogue companies online with product photos, descriptions, size charts and special 'Internet only' sale prices.

## **Christmas Shopping Tip 6: Buy in Bulk**

If you have a lot of people to buy for, and aren't exactly certain of their taste, consider buying in bulk. You can purchase a nice package of scented candles, divide them up into multiple gifts and present them with a beautiful bow wrapped around the glass jar. These types of gifts are ideal if you have teachers, doctors, co-workers or other special people that you want to wish a Merry Christmas. Another terrific idea is to purchase small Christmas tins and several bags of assorted miniature lollies. Divide the lollies up into each tin and present them with a beautiful bow on top. These are ideal gifts because they are thoughtful and budget conscious.



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