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Best December Deals To Take Advantage Of

Gift giving is a big deal in December so, while you're at it, you may as well get the best value for your buck. Here's how to think "strategy" when it comes to your holiday shopping:

AUTOMOBILES

A car is one of the best things to buy in December. Generally speaking, buying a car at the end of any month will save you money, as dealers will usually be trying to hit a quota. Buying at the end of the year gives shoppers a chance to make a great deal as most dealerships are eager to sell through as much inventory as possible before the start of a new year. And speaking of the new year, New Year's Eve can be a great time to cut your best deal on a new car.

TOOLS

Typically, Black Friday has been an optimal time to buy tools, but don't sell December short. December is a great month to cash in on some real deals, in particular tool sets, such as drill sets, wrench sets, and screwdriver sets. The benefit of grabbing some deals in December is that these items also make great gifts for all those DIYers on your holiday shopping list.

ELECTRONICS & TECH

Many brands will be rolling out new editions and models of tech equipment like tablets, phones, and smartwatches, which means many retailers will be lowering the prices of older generations of the products. (This rule of thumb does not apply to larger electronic buys like computers, laptops, or televisions.) Save those deals for Black Friday sales.)

GIFT CARDS

Buying gift cards in December is not only smart, it's also practical. Gift cards have become one of the most popular items to give during the holiday. For this reason, many restaurants, stores, and brands offer steep discounts on gift cards in December. Buy gift cards for yourself to use later or to give during the holidays - they always come through in a gift-giving pinch.

WEDDING DRESSES

And here's why. Most couples skip the month of December for their impending nuptials and let's face it: Wedding gowns have become a big ticket item. According to *TheKnot.com*, the average wedding dress cost in 2023 was \$2,000. So, with weddings at a near standstill in December, dress retailers are more likely to say "I do" to your offer.

TOYS

Typically, retailers need to sell through their holiday stock before the year ends. The consumer demand for toys is at its highest of the year, so although you may not be able to secure this year's hottest toy trend, rest assured there will be plenty of options for you to choose from. According to *Cheapism.com*, the best toy deals of the year will typically be found from early to mid-December.

APPLIANCES

Yes, Black Friday and a few 3-day weekend holidays are great times to buy appliances, but according to Consumer Reports, the end of the year is also an ideal time to get a great deal on a refrigerator, washer, or dryer. Once again, retailers are ramping up for new inventory to start the year and are looking to part with their older inventory. This typically comes to the consumer as year-end close-out sales.

December Calendar

December 7 - Pearl Harbor Day

December 21 - First Day of Winter

December 25 - Christmas Day

December 25 - Hanukkah Begins

December 31 - New Year's Eve

Homeowner Tips



Keep Your Home Free of Critters

Prevent the problem by inspecting your home's exterior to make sure vents are covered, holes are patched, and cracks are sealed. Squirrels, rats, and raccoons will crawl through any hole or crack in your toasty attic to stay warm. If you notice your home has been invaded, you'll have to set traps or lay poison. Or call in the professionals.

How to Start Your Own Holiday Traditions

Traditions serve to solidify special memories that build year after year. And there's no time like the winter holidays to create new ones or add to tried-and-true ones:

GIVE BACK

The winter holidays encourage the idea of service and giving back like no other. Find a charity of your choice and jump in as a volunteer. Whether it's a toy drive, food bank, or soup kitchen, being of service aids your community and inspires gratitude.

DIY ORNAMENTS

Turn on your favorite holiday music and get busy making ornaments your family will

cherish for years. Check out *CountryLiving.com* for great ideas.

FAMILY PHOTOS

Take a family photo every year and share it with your family, friends and neighbors. These photos will create an irreplaceable yearly photo album that tracks the progression of your family as it evolves. Write a letter or summary of the year's events to go with it.

SPECIAL DISHES

Whether it's Christmas cookies or Hanukkah latkes, cuisine that is specific to a holiday is memorable. And don't forget to share these delicacies with friends, family and neighbors!



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Latkes - A Tasty Addition to Any Holiday Table

Latkes are fried potato pancakes and possibly the best-known Hanukkah food. Made of shredded potatoes and onions much like hash browns, they're traditionally topped with applesauce and served as a side dish.

INGREDIENTS

- 3 medium russet potatoes, peeled
- 1 large egg, beaten, or more to taste
- 2 tablespoons all-purpose flour
- 1 tablespoon grated onion
- ½ teaspoon salt, or more to taste
- ¼ cup peanut oil for frying, or as needed

INSTRUCTIONS

Shred the potatoes and wring out excess moisture with a cheesecloth.

Mix two cups of the potatoes with the flour, salt, egg, and diced onion.

Fry spoonfuls of the potato mixture in hot oil, pressing down to form patties.

Traditionally served with applesauce, sour cream or smoked salmon, but salsa, ketchup or maple syrup are other favorites. Use your imagination and add a surprise fusion of your own for a novel twist that is uniquely yours.

