Gifts come in many different types, prices ■ A sculptured art piece Gifts that take time ■ Favorite family recipes writ-ten on recipe cards or organized in a three-ring binder

Q: When it comes to buying gifts for birthdays, holidays and showers,

DOMESTIC PLANNER



and showers,
I want to
give a gift
someone
needs or
would enjoy.
I find myself wandering around the around the store look-ing for gift ideas. How can I choose special gifts?

DIANA KOENIG times it is difficult to choose the right gift for someone. How many times have you received a gift that eventually ended up in a

garage sale? You want to give a gift that is useful and appreciated. You could ask the person you are buying a gift for to give you a list of ideas. An alternative is to ask someone else who knows him or her for any suggestions. Your last option is to create your own ideas. There are many types and prices of gifts from which to choose. I have given you a list of suggestions.

suggestions.
Priceless gifts that will be

Priceless gifts that will be lifetime treasures

A family heirloom that has been passed down from one generation to another

Photos mounted on pages with written history

Handmade pieces such as a quilt, needlepoint pieture or knitted afghan

A spitting by a famous artist

M A gitt basket niled with tood tiens, or a theme basket, such as a golf basket with tees, golf towel and golf balls, a game basket with cards, score pad, dice and rules, or a tea basket with assorted teas, a cup and a saucer Expensive gifts a Gold, silver or precious gem

A money tree
A gift basket filled with food

jewelry

Designer clothing or house-hold object old object

■ Crystal

■ China
■ Electronic items such as a

nitted afghan camera, telovision, computer, CD
■A painting by a famous artist player, VHS or DVD player

■ Tickets to a sporting event Personal gifts ■ Something engraved with the recipient's name or initials such as a letter opener, a pen-holder, a jewelry box or serving

pieces
Perfume, lotion and bath

products

A gift certificate for a manicure, haircut and style, facial or

cure, haircut and style, facial or massage

Clothing

Monogrammed objects such as towels, napkins, a robe or a sweat shirt

An offer to baby-sit

Unusual gifts

Something you found in a specialty shop that wouldn't be available in large quantities from department or discount stores

Gifts chosen while you are

vacationing

A donation in the recipient's
name to a favorite charity

ame to a lavorite ch
■ An herb garden
Economical gifts
■ Books

Books

A magazine subscription

Off-ceason items on sale

Jigsaw puzzles

Flants

Flants

Flants

Socka, handkerchiefs, ties

Socka, handkerchiefs, ties

A gift bag filled with disposable objects such as tolletries shampo, hair spray, toothpaste and deodorant)

game rule book
Today's refrigorator bulletin: A gift given with love will
be special!
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stories to Diana Koenig, R.O. Box
1702. Manchaster, MO 63011;
mail dianakoenig@bhandi.com.
Visit her Web site, www.domesticnlanner.com. nd deodorant)

A gift certificate to a grocery
r hardware store

Movie gift certificates
Restaurant gift certificates
Home office supplies such as

DESIGN CALENDAR

Beware of wax in products for finishing deck

■ Haberman Fabrics, 117 W. Fourth in Royal Oak, offers a vari-ety of home decor classes. Pre-reg-istration is required. For informa-tion, call (248) 541-0010 or visit

www.habermanfabrics.com. Learn designer touches as you

Learn designer touches as you make a square or rectangular pillow in the three-session Beginner Plus Pillow (\$60), meeting Monday, Wednesday and Friday, July 15, 17 and 19, or Saturdnys beginning July 20.

Beyond Thread, Beyond Fiber, an exhibit by the Needlework & Textile Guild of Michigan, is featured to Friday, July 19, at the Oakland County Galleria, 1200 N. Telegraph in Pontiac. Galleria bours are 9 a.m. to 5 m. Monday-Friday. For infor-

p.m. Monday-Friday, For infor-

BY MORRIS AND JAMES CAREY FOR AP WEERLY FEATURES

Q: What do you recommend for washing and finishing a wood deck?

A: Powdered laundry detergent and hot water is usually enough to clean a moderately dirty deck. However, if the deck hos seen better days, a chemical wood brightener along with a machanism with the moderate of the seen to be seen to be seen as the seen of the seen as the seen of the seen

mation, call the Office of Arts, Culture & Film at (248) 858-

■ Tours are scheduled now

Tours are scheduled now through October at historic Cranbrook House, 380 Lone Pine Road in Bloomfield Hills Pree parking is at Christ Church Cranbrook, directly across Lone Pine Road.

Cost is \$10 for tours at 3 p.m. Sundays, and 11 a.m. and 1:16 p.m. Thursdays. You may include lunch at noon Thursdays for an additional \$15 by making a reservation. The lunch is available only with a \$10 tour.

After touring the house, you may stroll through the surrounding 40 acres of gardens at no extra charge. For \$6, you

that has been sealed with wax, the water will bead beautifully. Unfortunately, that beautiful coat of wax doesn't penterate as far beneath the surface as oil does. Worst of all, wax evaporates far more rapidly than oil—about two to three times as fast. A good wood preservative also has chemicals that prevent damage from ultraviolot rays of the sun and from attack by mildew.

may visit only the gardens any time from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Mondays through Saturdays, or 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sundays. Reservations aren't necessary for house tours. For Thursday lunch reservations, group rates, senior and student discounts, private guided garden tours and more information, call (248) 645-3147.

Cranbrook Educational Community offers Fabulous Fridays July 25 and Aug. 23. Cranbrook House will be open for evening tours 6 p.m., 7 p.m. and 8 p.m. Cranbrook's Institute of Science and Art Museum will also be open on Fabulous Fridays.

Cranbrook Ilouse was the home of Cranbrook founders

moldings at corners where it is important for the moldings to appear that they have joined

without a scam.

without a seam.
With mitering, the ends to be joined on each of the two pieces of wood are cut at an angle equal to half that of the corner angle. For example: Miter cuts at a 96-degree corner would each be at 46 degrees.
Coping is the other technique some say is better than mitering.

some say is octure than intering.

However, coping can only be used for inside corners. Here, a coping saw is used to cut the shape of one molding into the one joining it – an end-to-face connection. A coped cut is best

George and Ellen Booth, who were principal players in the American Arts and Crafts movement in the early 20th

movement in the early 20th century.

Saarinen House on Lone Pinu Road, home of the world-famous architect of many of Cranbrook's buildings, is also open to visitors; call toll-free (877) 462-7282 for times, costs and other information. Saarinen House will be open on Fabulous Fridays.

The Oreon Starr House Museum, 3123 N. Main, not block south of 13 Mile in Royal Oak, has an open house the econd Sunday of each month. The house was built in, 1845. Donations appreciated. Call (248) 588-7563.

made with a slight bevel to ensure a tight joint at the face of the molding.

Coping cannot be used for outside corners. Here a miter must be used.

Properly cut, a miter is every bit as good as – if not better than – a coped joint, especially when the molding is large and has an intricate pattern. We usually miter.

Prefabbed corners are available with some crown moldings that eliminate the need for a miter cut and simplify installation. However, most crown moldings are stand-alone items, and must be installed with a miterandor a cope-cut.

Make home safe for elderly parents

FROM LOWE'S HOME IMPROVEMENT WAREHOUSE FOR AP WEEKLY FEATURES

Baby Boomers aren't getting any younger, and neither are their parents.

It's a fact of life that many

It's a fact of life that many Boomers must shoulder the responsibility to care for the homes of their iderly parents.
Yet according to the Lowe's Home Safety Council, more than simple upkeep is involved. Because the elderly are more at risk for accidents, safety is a major consideration.

Because the elderly are more at risk for accidents, safety is a major consideration.

With the elderly being targets of much-publicized home-improvement scam artists, Lowe's recommends you first build a list of home-improvement specialists you trust. This removes your parents from high-pressure negotiation tactics and puts you in control.

It's not a bad idea to schedule regular wallt through the home with your home-improvement expert to review what work needs to be done — and for how much money.

Next, pay close attention to the safety aspects of the home.

In particular, the Lowe's Home Safety Council identifies certain items you should red-flag for immediate action:

Are steps protected by hand railings and non-skid surfaces?

Are area rugs backed by rubber or two-sided tape to reduce

ber bands, envelopes, stamps and staples

A current dictionary, the saurus, city map or state map

Blank VHS tapes, CD tapes or computer diskettes

A telephone calling card

Gardening items and informational books

mational books

Board games, cards and

slippage?

Do all interior light bulbs have enough wattage to illuminate portions of the home?

Are exterior portions of the home adequately lighted? This applies both to security and general lighting.

Install motion detectors to kick on exterior floodlights and lamps in some interior rooms.

Install railings in baths and showers.

showers.

Consider railings along hall-way walls.

way walls.

Are cracks and gaps in paving and sidewalks filled and smoothed?

smoothed?

Is there enough attic insulation, and are all windows weatherproofed?

Install both smoke and carbon dioxide detectors. Check the
batteries regularly. Place a fire
extinguisher near the kitchen,
and make sure your parents
know how to use it properly.

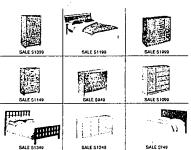
Ask trusted neighbors to
keep an eye on the house. Give
them your phone and e-mail
addresses.

them your phone and e-mail addresses. "When you help your parents take important safety measures in their home, you are not only ensuring the safety of your parents, but of everyone who comes into contact with the homi, including visitors and grandchid-fren," said David Oliver, Lowe's Home Safety Council Executive Director.









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If your purchase totale \$2000-\$2000 coupon is worth your purchase totals \$3000-\$3000 councer is worth \$200 gan at time of purchase. Offer cover est establish for semples, there are a lemind evaluating seens. One coupuring we have let Carron be contend with any other offer or coupers. Other valid Tuesday, July 9 - Sunday, August 11, 2002.

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