

# Gifts come in many different types, prices

**Q:** When it comes to buying gifts for birthdays, holidays and showers, I want to give a gift someone needs or would enjoy. I find myself wandering around the store looking for gift ideas. How can I choose a special gift?



DIANA KOENIG

**DOMESTIC PLANNER**  
Sometimes 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.

**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 picture or knitted afghan
- A painting by a famous artist

**■ A sculptured art piece**

**Gifts that take time**

■ Favorite family recipes written on recipe cards or organized in a three-ring binder

■ A money tree

■ A gift basket filled with food items; 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**

■ Gold, silver or precious gem jewelry

■ Designer clothing or household object

■ Crystal

■ China

■ Electronic items such as a camera, television, computer, CD 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 penholder, a jewelry box or serving pieces

■ Perfume, lotion and bath products

■ A gift certificate for a manicure, 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

■ An herb garden

**Economical gifts**

■ Books

■ A magazine subscription

■ Off-season items on sale

■ Jigsaw puzzles

■ Plants

■ Homemade food such as bread, cookies or jam

**Practical gifts**

■ Socks, handkerchiefs, ties

■ A gift bag filled with disposable objects such as toiletries (shampoo, hair spray, toothpaste and deodorant)

■ A gift certificate to a grocery or hardware store

■ Movie gift certificates

■ Restaurant gift certificates

■ Home office supplies such as

computer paper, paper clips, rubber bands, envelopes, stamps and staples

■ A current dictionary, thesaurus, city map or state map

■ Blank VHS tapes, CD tapes or computer diskettes

■ A telephone calling card

■ Gardening items and informational books

■ Board games, cards and game rule book

**Today's refrigerator built-in**

"A gift given with love will be special!"

Diana Koenig is a writer, editor, speaker and consultant. Send your questions and success stories to Diana Koenig, P.O. Box 1702, Manchester, MO 63011; e-mail dianakoenig@hotmail.com. Visit her Web site, [www.domestic-planner.com](http://www.domestic-planner.com).

## DESIGN CALENDAR

■ Haberman Fabrics, 117 W. Fourth in Royal Oak, offers a variety of home decor classes. Pre-registration is required. For information, call (248) 541-0010 or visit [www.habermanfabrics.com](http://www.habermanfabrics.com).

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 Saturdays 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 hours are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday-Friday. For information, call the Office of Arts, Culture & Film at (248) 858-0415.

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

Cost is \$10 for tours at 3 p.m. Sundays, and 11 a.m. and 1:15 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 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 26 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 House was the home of Cranbrook founders George and Elton Booth, who were principal players in the American Arts and Crafts movement in the early 20th century.

Saariinen House on Lane Pine Road, home of the world-famous architect of many of Cranbrook's buildings, is also open to visitors; call toll-free (877) 462-7262 for times, costs and other information. Saariinen House will be open on Fabulous Fridays.

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