

CHRISTMAS

FEELING THE EFFECTS OF INFLATION? HERE ARE TIPS TO HELP YOU SAVE MONEY WHILE HOLIDAY SHOPPING

You don't need to spend a fortune to get a good gift



Written by [Kaleb A. Brown](#), News Staff Writer who ties events you care about to products you need.
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In September, inflation was at 3.7%, **well above the Federal Reserve's target of 2%**. As a result of high inflation, many have cut back on spending—Gen Z's spending habits **declined by more than 2%** between May 2022 and May 2023.

92% of Americans stated that they were considering cutting back on spending, per a recent poll. With all of this in mind, it makes sense if you're wondering if you'll have enough money to go holiday shopping this season. Fortunately, there are many ways to save money, ensuring that you can reach your **gift-giving** goals this year.

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Shop holiday sales



Credit: Getty Images / sturti

Black Friday and Cyber Monday are two of the major shopping holidays where you can score big on heavily discounted items.

One of the easiest ways to save money on gifts is to take advantage of sales and deals. We firmly believe at Reviewed that you should *never* buy an item full price. There's no better time to score a deal than the holiday season. There are already tons of early Black Friday deals you can shop right now from Amazon, Best Buy, and more. **Here are some of the best ones you can shop right now.**

- **12 Black Friday Apple deals you need to shop at Amazon**
- **Shop 50+ early Black Friday sales at Walmart, Target, and Amazon**
- **30 best early Black Friday Amazon deals to shop now**
- **We found the best early Walmart Black Friday deals on Lego, LG, and Dyson**
- **6 best Black Friday cookware sales at HexClad, Our Place, Caraway**

Compare prices between retailers



Credit: Getty Images / claudio.arnese

Don't settle for the first deal you come across while shopping this season because it's sure to pay off in the long run.

Shopping around is one of the best ways to save money during the holiday season. Before you commit to buying a product at one retailer, do some digging to see if you can find that same product at another retailer for less. We know the urge to buy a product immediately is strong, but the elation you'll feel at buying your gift at a *lower price* will be worth it. Odds are if you can find a toy at **Walmart**, you can find it at **Target**, too, so do your homework and find out where a product is cheaper.

Avoid “shop now, buy later” apps



Credit: Getty Images / ArtistGNDphotography

Though you may be familiar with basics of layaway, payment plans can lead to a small mountain of debt after the holidays are done.

We’ve all been there—we’ve had the itch to buy something, but our eyes were a bit bigger than our wallets. While it might strain your funds to buy it all at once, there’s sometimes an option to pay in installments over time. Doing so can seem like a financially sound decision.

If you think so, you’re not alone, as the “buy now, pay later” model is expected to **surge this holiday shopping season**. But not all that glitters is gold—buy now, pay later apps can cause users to accumulate debt via missed payments and other fees, which are often obfuscated. Beyond this, while budgeting is a way to help you determine how much money you’ll have in the future, unforeseen expenditures can come up, making it harder to pay back what you’ve already purchased.

A good rule of thumb is that if it seems too expensive now, it will probably still be expensive later. A better way to ease the financial burden of holiday shopping is to *actually* spend less by using one of the methods we outline here.

Shop resale and secondhand



Credit: Getty Images / Getty Images

Don’t underestimate the power of thrifting, it can yield successful results—at a fraction of the cost!

Resale storefronts will typically offer prices much lower than what you’ll find when shopping new. **eBay** is one of the leading resale sites, with hundreds of used and refurbished items available for you to buy this holiday season.

Of course, this option isn’t for everyone. The hottest and newest gifts, by their nature, will likely not be found used. An item’s listed condition may also differ from how it’s listed online, so that’s always a risk that comes with the territory. Finally, you should be

aware of shipping times, which can catch you off-guard if you buy from a secondhand seller.

eBay



eBay is filled with resellers that will connect you to the perfect gift you've been on the hunt for.

BUY NOW
at eBay

Don't do your shopping last minute

There's a fine line between being proactive and eschewing research to buy products at the first store you see them in. That said, start your shopping early even if you're waiting to commit to buying. The longer you wait, the less stock there will be for certain products. To buy it in time for the holiday, you may have to buy it from scalpers who have gauged the price. Beyond this, shipping times need to be considered—the earlier you order, the more likely your gift will arrive in time for the holiday, regardless of where you bought it from. Luckily, we've rounded up **shipping deadlines from the most popular carriers** for your convenience.

Gift experiences and homemade presents



Credit: Getty Images / Rawpixel Ltd

Handmade gifts can actually prove to be more sentimental to the receiver.

Another way to save money this holiday season is to ditch the expensive, premium gifts and present your loved ones with experiences such as family dinners and trips to local winter attractions. You can also make your gifts yourself instead of buying them—some may even prefer this, finding this option to be more thoughtful.

For those who like to gift clothing for holidays (childhood is balking at a pair of socks for Christmas; adulthood is looking forward to them), you can try your hand at a homemade gift by knitting a sweater, scarf, or blanket. One of the best places to shop for everything knitting-related is **Darn Good Yarn**. When you shop Darn Good Yarn, you shop ethically sourced yarn from all over the world.

Darn Good Yarn



Need a new hobby to pick up during the holiday break in your free time? Try knitting.

BUY NOW
at Darn Good Yarn

If you prefer making gifts of the edible variety, we highly recommend you use **our favorite stand mixer**, the **GE Profile Smart Mixer**, to get the job done. It has an integrated scale, a built-in timer, and accessible controls.



GE Profile Smart Mixer

Mix a variety of recipes to perfection for big family dinners with the help of the GE Profile Smart Mixer.

BUY NOW
at Crate & Barrel

You can gift paintings for the holidays without being Picasso by painting the sets offered by **Muse Paintbar**. Breathtaking sunsets, ethereal night skies, and tranquil winter wonderlands are just a few of the masterpieces you'll be able to paint and gift this holiday season.

Muse Paintbar Activity



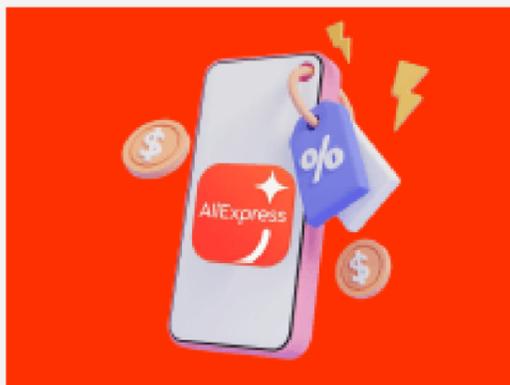
Seeking an activity for you and your loved ones to enjoy together? Muse Paintbar may be right up your alley.

BUY NOW
at Muse Paintbar

Stick to a budget

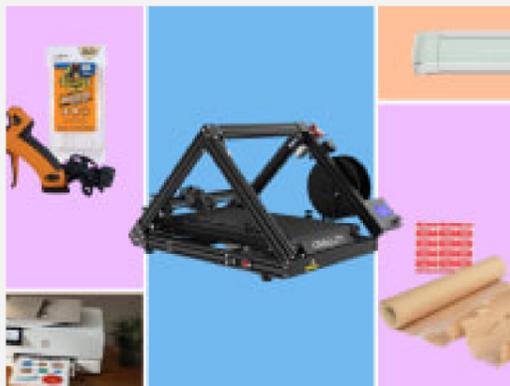
Lastly, stick to a budget while you're doing your holiday shopping. There are a lot of shiny new toys that you'll be tempted to buy for yourself and others, but only you can decide how much money you can spend this year and still feel comfortable financially. If you need a little nudge in the right direction, we've rounded up **gifts under \$100**, **gifts under \$50**, and even **gifts under \$25** so that you can feel confident buying gifts this year, no matter what your budget is.

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