



# Holiday Hints

## Cool Tips, Hot Trends For The Holidays

(NAPSA)—Finding the perfect gifts for friends and family need not be difficult, even if you're trying to match individual tastes and stay within a limited budget. Style expert Mariana Keros, Vice President of Trend and Product Development at Kmart Corporation, offers advice so that shoppers may be able to find gifts to please everyone on their list—from the family fashionista to the tech-smart teen to “holiday happy” friends and relatives. Keros provides the following tips for shoppers this holiday season:

- **Patriot Power:** Show your spirit by flying the flag and giving red, white and blue clothing and home décor. “Now more than ever, Americans are eager to express their patriotism,” says Keros. “Show your spirit by decorating windows and walls with patriotic-colored lights and decorations or pick up a flag and fly it high.”

- **Amazing Apparel:** “This season, fashion is filled with fun, notice-me looks such as faux fur and rhinestone accessories,” says Keros. “This look can be personalized for individual styles. Even the most conservative person on your list can update a basic black coat with a detachable faux fur collar and cuff set.” For the fashion-forward, Keros suggests stocking up on stylish wide belts, cuff bracelets, and faux fur and rhinestone accessories.

- **Toy Trends:** “Anything featuring Harry Potter or Bob the Builder is hot this season. There's also a renewed interest in Americana toys, so load up on nostalgic items like Lincoln Logs, pogo sticks and hula hoops,” suggests Keros. In addition to old favorites like Barbie and action figurines, many children (and parents) appreciate electronic and interactive toys that stimulate learning like the LeapPad by LeapFrog.



**Fashion accessories stand out as popular holiday gift items this season.**

- **Gadgets Galore:** “For the gadget guru on your list, stay on top of the fast-paced trends in electronics,” advises Keros. This year's most wanted include the Microsoft X-Box, compact cameras and the iRock MP3 Player.

- **Get That Festive Feeling:** Spread holiday cheer with season-specific clothes, accessories and housewares featuring snowflakes and snowmen.

Keros has even developed a list of holiday gift-giving do's and don'ts:

*Do* go retro. Add some hip “70's” flavor to your home with a novelty motion or glitter lamp. Use your creativity to choose gift-giving selections that “step out of the square.”

*Don't* be conventional. Mix it up with something a little different for the home. Nothing says fun like a faux fur throw or a retro toaster.

*Do* give gifts that require special thought. Give the cooks on your list a new piece of cookware

such as a fondue maker or wok and have them invent their own kind of party.

*Don't* give impersonal gift items. Try to give items that have already been requested or gifts that reflect the unique personality and style of the recipient.

*Do* cozy up in fleece. The must-have fabric of the season, great to use, wear and give to your loved ones—in the form of a blanket or sweater jacket—for cold days and cozier nights.

*Don't* overdo loud prints. Prints are great as accents but most people prefer to receive cozy fabrics in warm colors during the holiday season.

*Do* keep extra gifts on-hand for unexpected guests, co-workers, or family members. Stock up on universally popular gifts—such as home entertaining and decorative items—that you know everyone will love and enjoy.

You can find all these gifts and more at Kmart stores or online at [www.bluelight.com](http://www.bluelight.com).