

Personal Care Items Have Become A Popular Gift

The spa industry is a booming one. Over the last three years, visits to spas have increased by 16 percent.

More than half of the men and women visiting spas to engage in facials, manicures, pedicures, massages and restorative baths do so for relaxation purposes, say reports by Intelligent Spas. What's more, many spa visitors want to recreate the services and relaxation values of spa visits in the comfort of home.

Building upon this idea, gifts involving personal care can appeal to many on your holiday shopping list. Plus, gifts of this type can be put together to meet a variety of interests and budgets. Here are a few ideas:

· **Pampered pedicures.** Feet take the brunt of daily activity. That's why routine pedicures can keep them in top shape and provide comfort.

Pedicures can be done at home with a few supplies, easily packaged into a gift basket. Fill a gift basket with nail clippers, cuticle pushers, cotton balls and swaps,

nail polish remover, moisturizing foot lotion, warm fuzzy socks, as well as a Microplane® Foot File. The Microplane® Foot File has been described as a "must have" foot-care product by users around the globe.

The product features 95 tiny files that create a bi-directional exfoliating system that quickly and safely removes dry or callused skin.

The end-result is baby soft, smooth, beautiful feet. For a set that is already prepackaged, making gift-giving a snap, try the Microplane® Essentials Gift Set, featuring moisturizing cream, spa socks, and the patented Microplane® Foot File.

· **At-home facial.** There are many products sold at area department stores and even drug stores that offer the convenience and lower price of a facial at home.

From exfoliating facial scrubs to mechanized devices that slough off the signs of aging, you can find items to cater to your gift recipient. Complete the package with a CD of relaxing music, gentle cotton cleansing pads and makeup remover.

· **Merry massages.** Professional spa employees are certified in massage therapy and make easy work of loosening up muscles and melting away stress and tension.

However, similar results can be achieved at home with a few handy items. For massage-lovers, recreate the spa experience with a gift of a luxe robe, candles, scented (or unscented depending upon sensitivity) massage oil, and a book of massage basics. If you're gifting a romantic partner, include a certificate for your massage services.

· **A pampered day out.** Treat a friend or family member to a day out by purchasing a gift card to his or her favorite spa or personal-care salon. A simple massage or pedicure "on you" will be appreciated. When offering pedicure gifts, a complementary present is a Microplane® Foot File, which is more gentle and safe than straight-razor callus shavers, and more sanitary than the pedicure tools used on all of the salon's clientele.

For more gift ideas and information about Microplane® Foot Files in Canada, visit www.microplaneintl.com.



Gifts For The Do-It-Yourselfer

Everyone loves a great gift and while the holiday season is the obvious time for gift-giving, there are plenty of ideas out there you can surprise that friend or family member who loves getting handy no matter what the occasion.

For the budding or expert craftsman you know, building a gift around his or her hobby will be appreciated that much more. Here are some ideas to get you started, courtesy of Woodcraft.

1. **Pint-sized helper.** Perhaps you know a child who just loves getting involved in home-improvement projects - watching dad fix the sink or mom renovate a room. Encourage that budding curiosity by giving a My First Project® tool set and project kit from Woodcraft.

Your resident young apprentice will love the down-sized versions of adult tools, such as a hammer, screwdriver, Phillips screwdriver, tape measure, and an 8" square. Additionally, My First Project offers a selection of easy-to-construct, eco-friendly project kits that kids love to build, like birdhouses, butterfly houses or a toolbox.

2. **Hobby Enthusiast.** The popularity of woodworking continues to grow. For those you know who love passing the hours working their craft, help them along by creating a gift basket with everything they'll need.

For example, include instruc-

tions for building a sturdy, yet decorative Adirondack patio chair, and a gift card for woodworking classes and materials for use at your local Woodcraft store.

3. **Reliable storage.** What would the handyman be without his tools? To get a job done right, he has to use the right tools and maintain them. Make sure his precious equipment is well protected with an item like the Gerstner Tool Box.

This moisture-free chest has 10 drawers for storage of a variety of items. The box is designed in classic American style, and is constructed of Red Oak with tongue and groove joinery that insures strength and durability.

4. **Get organized and stocked.** Create a work space any tinkerer, do-it-yourselfer or serious crafts-

man is sure to enjoy.

There are plenty of retail organizational systems available that can quickly turn a cluttered area in a garage or basement into a dream work area. Stock the work space with the requisite power tools, such as a pneumatic nailer and air compressor, power drill, electric sander, jig saw and multi-tools, such as the Fein MultiMaster, which uses a broad assortment of accessory blades to handle sanding, scraping and hundreds of previously "manual" tasks.

These are just a few of the hundred gift ideas to keep do-it-yourselfers busy throughout the season. For more products and inspiration, contact the Woodcraft store nearest you, visit www.woodcraft.com or call (800) 535-4482.

Now, That's A Tree

For years, countries around the world have boasted that they possess the tallest Christmas tree ever.

These trees have come in all varieties, shapes and sizes.

Itu, a town in Brazil constructed the largest artificial tree, measuring at 250 feet.

In 1999, the tallest living decorated tree was found in Styx Valley in Tasmania.

This eucalyptus tree measured 262 feet and was decorated to serve as a deterrent to the tree logging taking place in the area.

It was argued that since the tree was not a spruce variety that it wasn't a true Christmas tree.

According to the Guinness Book of World Records, the tallest natural tree erected was in Seattle, Washington in 1950. It measured 215 feet.



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