

Beware when buying anything from Argos stores this christmas

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**Beware when buying anything from Argos stores this christmas**

**By Nicholas Witham**

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Beware when buying anything from Argos stores this christmas you might get more than you bargained for!

Whilst on our family holiday in Cornwall, July 2002, my wife purchased a digital camera from Argos Store Penzance and was given the wrong item by sales staff Shirley Salmon and Deborah Williams at that store. My wife had paid for a £549.99 Fuji digital camera but was given a Fuji Instamatic camera worth only £29.99. When the sales staff were confronted with this they apologised and exchanged the item. The next day we were both extremely shocked when we were arrested by the police and questioned by Detective Constable Deborah Hunt from Falmouth CID. We had been wrongly accused by Argos stores of theft by Deception. Argos stores claimed that we obtained two £549.99 Fuji digital cameras and only paid for one! Our two young daughters were put under the supervision of social services, causing them (and myself and my wife) great distress and anxiety, while we were detained and repeatedly questioned by police. The police had raided our car and seized my photographic equipment. Apart from turning our family holiday into a disaster, this resulted in numerous court appearances (costing us thousands of pounds), lengthy journeys (14 hours there and back), loss of earnings and a great deal of pain and suffering. The police are still refusing to return £1100 worth of my photographic equipment. What happened to consumer protection laws and who is guilty of theft by deception?! Argos stores maybe?!!!!! The sales staff at Argos stores in Penzance weren't put through the scrupulous, degrading searches and interrogation that we were. Why? The answer we were given by Detective Constable Deborah Hunt, "We don't take kindly to outsiders coming here and committing crime." (Not sure I understand this and neither did my brief!). Is it a criminal offence to take a family holiday?

Sorry I can't attach any holiday snaps, they're still in the camera at Falmouths' police vaults!!!!

Don't hesitate to e-mail me with any comments or similar experiences.

njwitham@eircom.net (Nicholas Witham, Rep. of Ireland)

I am a mature student studying biology.

## **How To Save Money On Christmas Gifts**

**By Maria Estarellas**

How many times have you spent more that you could afford on Christmas gifts for your family and friends?

How many times have you bought gifts that weren't what you were looking for and on top of that, paid top dollars for them?

It has happened to all of us one too many times.

Well, you can SAVE money on all your Christmas Gifts.

### 1. Make a list.

It's always convenient to make a list of all the people that you will be giving a gift to.

Make sure you know what their interests are so you get a gift that they will appreciate. It will make it special for them and for you.

### 2. What to buy for someone that has everything?

Baskets, candles, a good book or a store certificate can be the perfect gift for that special person that has everything.

### 3. Buying in advance.

Don't wait until the last minute to go Christmas shopping because you'll end up paying high prices for stuff you don't even like. This happens specially with the hottest Holiday Toys because a lot of people look for them at local stores and since quantities are limited, you won't find them unless you go Christmas shopping early.

If you decide to go a local mall, make sure you do it during the first two weeks of November. You'll avoid the majority of Christmas shoppers and you are guaranteed to find what you're looking for at lower prices.

### 4. Take advantage of Online pre-Christmas Sales.

Most stores offer deep online discounts (up to 70%) on toys, clothing, accessories, gifts, candles, and more before Christmas during the months of October and November. They even offer Free Shipping with your order.

### 5. Buy from the comfort of your home.

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Every year, more people buy online to save time and money. By buying online, you'll be able to see every item on every gift category you're interested in without the hassle of searching a whole store or waiting in long lines, only to find out that what you're looking for is not available or is overpriced.

You'll also receive the items you purchased early, giving you time to wrap them in advance.

The Christmas Season should be spent with family and friends instead of worrying about looking for time to go Christmas shopping.

Have a great Holiday Season.

Maria Estarellas is the webmaster for

– "The Complete Website For

The Whole Family". You'll find fun things for each member of your family.

If your looking for that special gift, visit

How To Save Money On Christmas Gifts

Shopping Tips (5)

Where To Find Christmas Decorations And Ornaments

Selecting A Party Theme

Christmas shopping online might or might not be for everyone. This article shows how doing it online, enhances your overall Christmas experience!

Christmas Happy Package

Time Management Secrets

Vegetarian Recipe Book

The Big Book Of Cookie Recipes

120 Lip-Smacking Good Jam Recipes

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