

Selecting the Right Gifts for Dad Has Never Been Easier

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By William Mathis

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Has your hunt for father's day gifts ever collapsed into feelings of resignation that dad will just have to make do with one of the tried and true items from previous years? Does finding the right gift for dad seem to take too much time and effort?

Selecting just the right gift is an important way to say you care, and it's not so difficult as it might appear.

Some people give up before they really get started considering what to buy, because historically their efforts have been frustrating. So dad gets a shirt, a tie, socks, or maybe a book, because they're the obvious choices and he hasn't complained about those gifts in the past.

But it's the rare dad that will even hint that the gift is not needed or desired. Most will make something of a fuss over the gift and express copious amounts of gratitude. But did he really want another shirt? Maybe. And maybe he even liked the style and color. Or maybe he is resigned to getting the same range of items for father's day, year after year. Low expectations can temper disappointment.

So who will break the cycle of dull, predictable repetition? Looks like it will have to be you! And if you're ready to do so, please realize that you're not taking on a giant challenge. In reality, gift buying for dad has never been easier. Online shopping is safe and secure, fast, and there are enough options to suit any need, interest or taste.

And in those three words -- need, interest, taste -- lies the key to your choice, along with the always-relevant term, budget. Get those four concepts aligned and you can't go wrong. Three out of four wouldn't be awful either, so long as taste is included in the mix.

DAD'S NEEDS

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So let's be clear: if a shirt is the right gift for dad, then a shirt it should be. But before making any decision, consider these points. First, unless dad relies on you to stock his wardrobe, then clothing should be only one of many options in the equation. Second, if you bought clothing more often than not in the previous few years it could be time for a change.

So spend a few minutes reflecting on your purchase history. Have you fallen into a rut? Have you been too predictable?

Then consider his range of needs. If you don't have the knowledge to do that, get some help from other family members or friends. If he has no needs, then you will have to go with these other three concepts.

DAD'S INTERESTS

What does dad do with his time, and what does he say he would like to do? Has he talked about learning to fly fish or roller blade? Or does he stick to tried and true activities? All dads have at least one special interest, even if it's just watching every sports event that appears on TV. And if that's the case, selecting from an array of items from his favorite team is a sure way to please him.

Here's a critical point about interests. Never, ever project yours on to him. Doing so can lead to big problems. For example, if he hasn't directly expressed a desire for a pet, buying him one is a substantial risk. Again, if you're uncertain about what new interests he might have, get some help from others. If you have siblings, through a discussion about options you might decide to present dad with a joint gift this year — a good way to extend buying power for something that he wouldn't otherwise get.

DAD'S TASTES

Even though you may think he should learn to appreciate the finer things in life like opera, or he should learn to cook deluxe desserts, gift buying for dad is not about "should." It's not about you, except as a way to show your love and respect. So stick with his tastes in music, books, clothing —whatever. If he has never worn purple, don't bother buying it just because it's the color flavor of the year.

YOUR BUDGET

Finally, factor all these issues into how much you want to spend. In this case, tradition might be your best guide.

If you have been buying modest gifts, showing extravagance now might be unsettling and embarrassing for dad. However, if your financial situation has improved after years of pinching pennies, then he will likely accept that your more valuable gift simply reflects your desire to share your change in status with him.

In your price range you will find plenty of options, though the more flexibility you have financially the greater the selection. Spending big bucks isn't necessarily the answer, however.

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Your gift should simply feel right. If it reflects needs, interests and taste, the gift will tell him that you cared enough to consider who he really is. Most dads won't be concerned about the dollar value.

Most of all, your dad is likely to care whether you are able to spend time with him in person or, if you live at a distance, via phone. That's a need and an interest you should address first and foremost. The gift you buy is just a token in comparison to what you can give of yourself.

William Mathis is the owner of <http://www.best-mens-gifts.com>, a quick and handy guide to choosing gifts for men, whatever the occasion.

Why A Gift For Dad Needn't Be Socks Or Soap

By LynnM

There are some men who you can't help feeling sorry for. Every birthday, Father's Day or Christmas they're faced with the unenviable task of trying to look happy when presented with yet another pair of socks, aftershave or soap. I can't count the number of times I've heard female friends complain that they don't know what gift to get for their dad. Strangely, they don't have the same problem buying gifts for a woman. So, is it really so difficult to buy a gift for dad? Maybe we're just not trying hard enough.

The key when buying a gift for dad is to know his likes and dislikes. Yes, I know that's basic, but it's astonishing how many of us don't know. It possibly stems from the fact that for many of us when we were growing up (in my case during the 60s and 70s), we simply didn't have the same contact with our father as with our mother. He was away at work most of the week. And of course, most kids lose interest in their parents when going through the teenage years. It's no wonder our dads lag behind in the gifts-receiving department.

So, a special occasion is looming and you haven't got a clue what to give dad as a gift. Here's a tip - visit when your dad's not in. Take a good look at his cd collection to get an idea of his tastes. Examine his bookcase and his dvd cabinet. Check whether there are any magazines around with a male-oriented theme. If you know he likes wine, then look at the labels in the rack to ascertain what style of wine he likes. That should at least give you a starting point for ideas about a gift for dad. How about the latest book from his favorite author? Or a box set of cds or dvds in the genre he likes best? A magazine subscription would make a long-lasting gift. Consider buying wine in a gift box instead of just a bottle. It makes it more special.

It may be, of course, that your dad has a keen hobby or interest. This makes giving gifts easier, but it's still worth putting a little thought into it. My dad plays golf, but there are only so many times I want to give, or he wants to receive, a set of golf balls. So, in the past I've given him golf gifts such as a calendar with photos of famous courses, a ball-cleaning set, a wooden box carved with golfers for storing pens and a book about the history of the course he plays on. The same rules apply whatever the hobby. If you can't think of anything out of the ordinary, then use the internet and you'll be amazed how many different items you can buy for any sport or hobby.

A nice gift for dad is a personalized one. I don't mean something with his name embroidered on it, but

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rather something that has a particular resonance for him. For example, this could be a mouse mat with a picture of a beloved pet, or a framed portrait of his grandchildren, or the autograph of his sporting hero. If he loves food then buy or make him up a hamper or gift basket filled with his favorite treats. If you enjoy crafts then you could use your skills to make dad a scrapbook filled with memories, a cushion for his chair or an extra-special personalized card.

When you really think about it, you can come up with almost endless ideas on buying or making a gift for dad. So, instead of purchasing another aftershave/deodorant/shower gel combo, take a look online. You'll be spoiled for choice and your dad will be the one to benefit with a great gift.

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