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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.

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A nice gift for dad is a personalized one. I don't mean something with his name embroidered on it, but 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 spoilt for choice and your dad will be the one to benefit with a great gift.

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Handmade Soap Loaves – One Purchase Makes Multiple Gifts

By Jeffrey Dorrian

Some people may be curious to learn what handmade soap loaves actually are. Everyone is familiar with the typical bar of soap, but not everyone is familiar with loaves or what the term implies. This product is simply a very large square bar of soap. Think of a small un-sliced loaf of bread and that's all there is to it.

Many shoppers enjoy purchasing handmade soap loaves because of their many uses. For example, handmade soap makes a terrific gift idea and, by purchasing loaves, customers are able to cut the loaf into smaller bars and divide them up as gifts. This is a great way to make several gifts out of one purchase. On the other hand, a complete soap loaf is ideal for a gift and allows the recipient to create his/her own custom size soap. These items look beautiful inside of a wicker basket surrounded by a transparent gift bag and topped off with a ribbon or bow at the top.

Soap loaves, like handmade soap bars, are available in a variety of luxurious scents. From citrus and floral to chocolate and lavender, soap loaves are simply a huge bar that can be cut down to make smaller bars of handmade soap. In addition to being an ideal way to add custom-sized handmade soap to every room of the house or as a gift idea for family and friends, soap loaves are wonderful decorative touches. Their scents permeate the air and add a touch of luxury to every room. Even with their undeniable decorative elegance, soap loaves are most commonly used for their intended purpose. Because they are gentle on the skin and add moisture to the areas that other soaps may have damaged, handmade soap is highly sought after at specialty stores, craft shows and on the internet.

Handmade soap fragrances have a way of relaxing the user. Lavender handmade soap, for example, is both easy on the skin and the nerves. In and of itself, lavender is a calming scent that is believed to

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

sooth the personality and even help to ease stress. Another of the popular handmade soap scents, which is vanilla, is also known to provide a calming effect.

Because handmade soap loaves are large, they often provide a way for shoppers to save money. A large loaf may cost more, but can be cut to produce soap in every room of the home with additional product left over. Whenever a room is in need of additional soap, the owner simply cuts another slice from the loaf. This not only helps to save money, but also helps to eliminate the potential of running out of a favorite scented handmade soap.

Jeffrey Dorrian is the soap guy. Really, that is his website

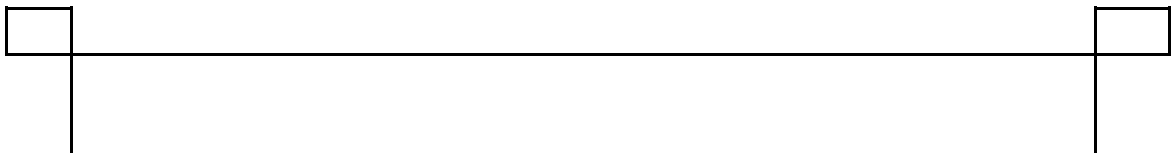
<http://www.thesoapguy.com>

. He has been

making premium handmade soap for the past five ye a rs. "Handmade soap is a true inexpensive luxury anyone can enjoy."



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