

Online Shopping for the Holidays

- Each Year online sales grow dramatically
- If you don't shop online, you should
- Many retail stores now have online sales
- Sales tax issue is still in dispute
- Will never replace retail stores, but will probably cause them to change the way they do business.



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Advantages of Online Shopping

- You get to see a complete array of items, not just the one or two a store carries
- You can read reviews by prior customers to see if something lives up to it's claims
- Many times you don't pay sales tax (although that is likely to change.)
- You can shop when you want, not just during store hours.
- Shipping is fast and reliable. (You can track delivery.)
- Returns can be made without waiting in lines. Online stores retain your invoice for you.
- You don't have to go to the store.



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Security

- Credit card theft almost never occurs on the internet
- I use Costco's American Express. If there is a problem within 60 days, just tell A/E not to pay the bill.
- Organizations like PayPal act as a broker and can be used with eBay to protect your card number from a small retailer



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Photography

- Shutterfly, Costco, Snapfish and Kodak
 - Calendars
 - Coffee Mugs
 - Notepads (only \$7.99 for a nice pad)
 - Photostamps (cost ~ 90 cents each)
 - Mousepads



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Other Photography Gifts

- Picture on aluminum is a unique (but expensive) photo gift. Go to Bayphoto.com and Fullmetalphotos.com
 - They claim metal prints are much more vibrant than paper.
 - Can be custom shaped, etc.



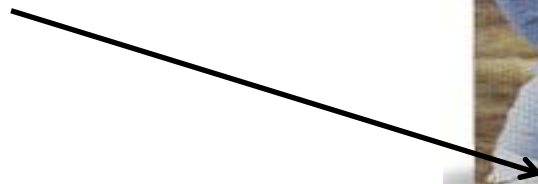
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Other Photography Gifts

- Wrapped Canvas prints from Zazzle.com are unique



Wrapped Canvas print.
See border.



Online Shopping for the Holidays

Most Popular Website is Amazon.com

- Amazon sells everything so go there first.
- Generally purchases over \$25 have free shipping. If it comes from Amazon then no sales tax.
- Amazon has a great Wish List function so ask relatives to build a Wish List.
- Amazon offers a browser add-in so that your wish list can reference other websites! Works in Chrome, IE, Firefox and Safari.



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Popular Items at Amazon.com

- Cameras and accessories. Check dpreview.com for unbiased camera recommendations.
- Magazine subscriptions. Amazon carries all magazines at competitive subscription prices.
- Amazon gift certificates are quite popular.
- Ebooks for those who own Kindles.



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Don't overlook eBay.com

- Sells many new items of all kinds
- Most can be purchased with a “buy it now” pricing (no bidding necessary)
- eBay protects its buyers so you are unlikely to be cheated



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Other Websites to Consider

- **Meritline.com.** They sell a ton of small cheap items. Most are technology type gadgets, but do carry other stuff.
- **Newegg.com.** They sell computer and other consumer technology items. Great website to learn about an item. Customer service is excellent.
- All the major stores have good websites – Macy’s, Sears, Home Depot, etc.
- **bhphotovideo.com** is an excellent resource for cameras and accessories.



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Miscellaneous Websites to Consider

- United States Mint (usmint.gov) sell coin sets and other good gift items. (Beware of similar named websites that are not the U.S. Government)
- For tools, try toolking.com. They have some good prices (don't forget Amazon, Sears, Lowes, etc.)
- harryanddavid.com sells top quality gift baskets, etc.
- rockbottomgolf.com sells discount golf supplies.
- smartplanethome.com sells kitchen gadgets that are good for gifts.



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Questionable Websites

- If a price is much lower than the major websites, then you are asking for trouble.
- Watch out for discount photo stores in Brooklyn and NY area. If the website doesn't list the location of the Company, then don't order anything from them.
- Check the website with the BBB at <http://www.bbbonline.org>
- Google a question about the website such as "problems with wydeals.com"
- Don't bother with questionable websites. There are many legitimate sites such as Amazon, Newegg, etc.



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Shopping Online is easy.

If you enjoy walking the malls just before Christmas then do it.

I'll be at home watching football.

