

## Wisest ways to pass on unwanted presents

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To re-gift or not to re-gift? Lots of people resort to this shortcut due to lack of time or funds, even if they feel a little tacky doing it. Although it's still a little taboo, etiquette experts are grudgingly allowing its use under certain circumstances. Just bear these points in mind.

### **Re-gift thoughtfully**

The idea isn't to foist your junk on someone else, so the basics of gift-giving still apply: a gift is meant to show respect, care, and love, and should show some thought.

"You want to make sure that if you re-gift something you're giving the person something you know they will like and appreciate," says Burnaby-based etiquette expert Kimberly Law. Bottom line: If the item isn't something you would actually buy the recipient, you shouldn't give it to them.

### **Re-gift new**

"You want to make sure it's brand-new and in good condition," says Law. The item should be unopened, unused, not tinkered with, not played with, and not so obsolete that it may have been phased out.

If it's a gift card, make sure it's not partially used with a remaining balance like \$32.58. Take the time to freshly re-wrap the gift and remember to remove any original tags or cards.

### **Keep social circles apart**

It's a good idea to make sure that the recipient and the gift's original buyer are in different social circles, says Law. "It can be really embarrassing if someone recognizes a gift they saw someone open already, or know it came from someone else."

The more unique, unusual, or memorable the present, the greater the degree of separation should be. Never re-gift anything handmade or personalized.

### **Keep it hush-hush**

Re-gift disclosure is a fuzzy area. "I'd feel funny if someone told me they're giving me a gift that somebody else gave them," says Law.

It's usually better to play it by ear. If you are re-gifting to someone you know well, like a best

friend or a close family member, open re-gifting might work. But generally, the more discreet, the better.

### **Re-gift as a last resort**

"If you don't want something, bring it back to the store," says Law. Other options include selling on eBay or gifting it as a "bonus" alongside a brand-new present.

For brand-new gift-givers: make sure you put the receipt in with the present so the recipient can return the item if necessary, and it doesn't become a potential re-gift item.

You really don't want to see that sweater you gave your friend on her dotty great-aunt, do you?

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