

HOLIDAY COUNTDOWN



24 SHOPPING DAYS LEFT

WHAT TO BUY FOR WHITE ELEPHANT



▲ **‘As seen on TV’**
“As seen on TV” items sometimes become white elephants either because the commercial is so much more convincing than the product, or the merchandise is really good but it’s so specialized. **Dollar General** has many “as seen on TV” items, including the **Veggetti (\$15)**, which cuts vegetables into spaghetti-like strands.



▲ **‘Art’**
A hand-painted picture can both look nice and be a white elephant. Case in point: look-alike paintings at **HomeGoods (\$49.99)** that are “individually painted using the finest oils on high quality canvas and signed by the artist.”

For the office

Want a water feature on your desk-top? **Family Dollar** has a few different meditation fountains, including a slate tower fountain (**\$10**).



Figurines

White elephant figurines are out there, too, such as at **Once in a Blue Moon (\$34.99)**, **Pier 1 (\$12, \$15, and \$18)**, **Ten Thousand Villages** in Archbold, Ohio, (**\$10, \$16, and \$18**), and various stalls at **Jeffrey’s Antique Gallery** near Findlay (**\$12, \$30, and \$32**).

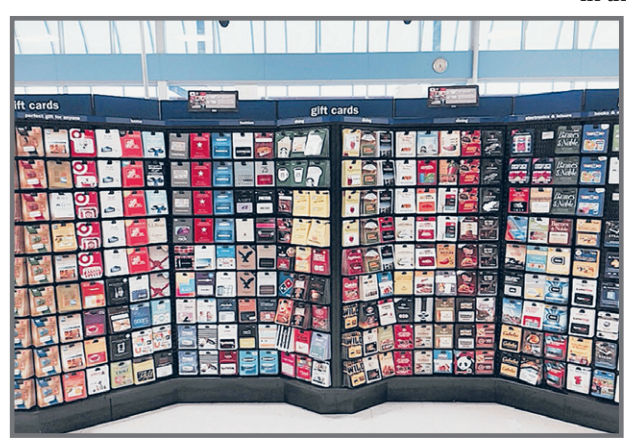


Yard art

How about some specialized yard art? **Pier 1 Imports** has a series of Buddhist monks, like one with glasses and a book (**\$69.95**) that can take up residence near your garden come springtime. Until then, maybe in the house or garage.

Coal

At **Dollar Tree**, you can reward those whose behavior might not have been certified “nice” with lumps of **DoubleCrisp coal (\$1 a bag)** — in this case, it’s candy.



Gift cards

For great variety when white elephant exchanges are part of the party, consider gift cards. **Meijer** has a large variety, and often you set the amount on the card.



Scarves

How often do Christmas prints go into the wardrobe? Let’s pretend it’s not a full three months out of the year. At **Dollar Tree**, where almost everything costs \$1, you can buy a variety of scarves and ties (**\$1 each**) up to your spending limit.



Art glass

Then there’s art glass, which might only be a white elephant because it doesn’t have a **Glass City** connection. Looks nice, a person might love a glass jellyfish (**\$9.99 at HomeGoods**), but it doesn’t tie to Toledo or even Lake Erie.

Prices and availability subject to change.



‘Technology gloves’

A recent addition to gloves is the fingertip feature that lets a person use a touch-screen device such as a smart phone or computer tablet. **Five Below** has “technology gloves” (**\$5**) with the logos of a couple of area universities known at least as much for athletics as for computer science.



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