

HOLIDAY COUNTDOWN



18 SHOPPING DAYS LEFT

WHAT TO BUY
HOT TOYS

▲ GoldieBlox

Billed as the anti-Barbie, Goldie is an action figure for girls. Instead of a dream house and high heels, she comes with a hammer and gym shoes. The line, which includes construction sets, dolls, and books is aimed at fostering young girls' interest in math, science, and engineering. Sets range from \$10 to over \$200 and are available at **Toys R Us** and goldieblox.com. Ages 4 and up.

Christmas is right around the corner, and while Santa is checking his naughty or nice list, the kids are taking stock of the hot holiday toys and loading up lists of their own. Featuring everything from princesses and puppies to forts and dinosaurs, here is a list of what's hot on the toy scene this season.

— RONEISHA MULLEN
BLADE STAFF WRITER

▲ Zoomer Dino

This robotic dinosaur has real dinosaur movements, sounds, and "dino-sense abilities." Boomer can detect when you're nearby and interacting with him. He can also get angry, spin around, chomp, and roar. Tame him with your hands or the included controller. Available at **Target**, **Kmart**, and **Walmart** for about \$80. Ages 5 and up.



▲ Hot Wheels Airbrush Auto Designer

Let your son or daughter customize their cars with this kit that comes with colorful airbrush pens, stencils, and a spray mask. Designs wash off easily for reuse and limitless options. Available at **Walmart**, **Target**, **Kohl's**, **Toys R Us**, and **Sears**. Price ranges from about \$30 to \$36. Ages 5 to 7.

▲ FurReal Friends Get Up and GoGo My Walkin' Pup

Give your little one the fun of a puppy without all of the responsibilities. Kids can talk to her and she'll bark back with ruffs and other puppy sounds, or walk her with the included remote control leash. Recommended for children ages 4 to 6 and available at **Toys R Us**, **Walmart**, **Target**, and **Kmart**. Retailers for about \$40.



▲ Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles

Thanks to a hit Nickelodeon show, and a live-action movie last summer, the TMNT are kicking butt in the toy department. TMNT clothes, costumes, action figures, and other toys are all expected to be holiday hits this year. Available at **Toys R Us**, **Target**, **Kohl's**, **Kmart**, **Walmart**, **Meijer**, and a number of other retailers. Prices vary by product.



▲ 'Doc McStuffins' Get Better Talking Mobile Cart

Nurses and doctors-to-be can start their training early with this on-the-go hospital emblazoned with imagery from the TV show *Doc McStuffins*. Ages 3 to 6. Available at **Walmart**, **Toys R Us**, and **Kmart** for about \$45.



▲ 'Frozen' toys

Elsa and Anna of Disney's *Frozen* reign supreme when it comes to toys this holiday season. Almost anything featuring the princesses is sure to fly off store shelves and make your little princess happy. Available at **Toys R Us**, **Target**, **Kohl's**, **Kmart**, **Walmart**, **Meijer**, and a number of other retailers. Prices vary by product.



▲ Simon

Everything old is new again, and this '80s classic is no different. **Simon** is back with its hypnotizing lights and sound sequences that are sure to enthrall the kids as much as adults. The new design features a digital screen with counter to guide you through each game. Ages 8 and up. Prices range from about \$15 to \$25 depending on retailer. Available at **Bed Bath & Beyond**, **Toys R Us**, and a number of other retailers and Web sites. Ages 8 to adult.



▲ LEGO Minecraft The Village

The popular video game comes to life with **LEGO** bricks. Kids can create and customize a micro-world complete with houses and crops. Available at **Toys R Us** and other retailers for about \$35.

Prices and availability subject to change.



▲ Roominate

With a mission to inspire the next generation of female technology innovators, **Roominate** is the DIY wired dollhouse building kit that gets girls excited about science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM). Through hands-on building and circuits, Roominate brings together creativity, engineering, and most important, fun. Kits range from about \$20 to \$100 and are available at **roominatetoy.com**, **amazon.com**, **toysrus.com**, **radioshack.com**, and **walmart.com**. Ages 6 and up.



Open Every Day Between
Christmas and New Years

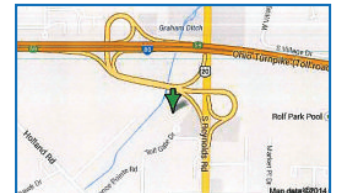
December 26th (Friday): 4pm-9pm
December 27 (Saturday): 10am-9pm
December 28th (Sunday): 10am-9pm
December 29th (Monday): 10am-9pm
December 30th (Tuesday): 10am-9pm
December 31st (Wednesday): 10am-9pm
January 1st (Thursday): 10am-3pm

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