

Christmas Gift Baskets

Corporate Gift Basket - You'll want to definitely show appreciation for those businesses that you do business with, and there's no better way than to put together a Christmas gift basket filled with items the entire office will enjoy. Gourmet items such as unusual chips and salsa, Amaretto almond cookies, Brie cheese spread and crackers can be festively presented in a basket of your choice.

That Special Someone - Show that special someone in your life how much you care by sending a Christmas gift basket that contains the ultimate Champagne, Dom Perignon. Pair it with a set of the ultimate chocolates - Godiva - and you've made the impression you hoped for.

Calling All Goodies - For the sweetest Christmas gift basket ever, put together a basket containing caramel corn, Jordan almonds, gourmet cookies (such as Mrs. Field's) and chocolates or candy that you know they'll love.

Popcorn and More - Who doesn't love popcorn? These days you'll find just about every type of popcorn you can imagine - cranberry, Ranch-style, caramel, chocolate and much more. Add some Christmas jelly beans, candy canes, peanuts and pretzels and you've got a very sweet Christmas gift basket.

Movie buffs- a DVD and some gourmet pop corn

Relaxation lovers- tea, and a good book

Coffee lovers - a big coffee cup with a gourmet coffee blend

Wine lovers - a bottle of their favorite variety of wine, cheese, crackers and a couple of wine glasses.

Baking lovers - a recipe book, some homemade treats and a baking tool to accompany the recipe book (i.e. a pastry book = pastry cutter, cookie recipes = cookie cutters etc.)

Tea Lovers- teapot and tea cozy set, variety of mints and muffins or scones.

New Years theme - ice bucket, a bottle of Champagne , party hats, sparklers and balloons.

Container ideas:

Vases, flower pots or pails

Wicker baskets, fabric boxes, or hat boxes

Mugs, mixing bowls, or pasta pots

Cookie jars or cookie tins

Go green and re-purpose items you already have

Cover shoe boxes in brown butcher paper, have your kids draw and decorate the paper!

Re-usable shopping bags

Tip - One of the tips that most pros give out is to shop for next years gift baskets this year. Most stores have a sale post Christmas where you could buy fabulous Christmas gift wrap, ornaments, candles and other holiday related paraphernalia and discounted prices.

Fillers - Fillers might be necessary to hold the gift items in place, to fill in empty spaces, and to lift your gift up so they are visible. If your container is very deep you can use floral foam or crumpled newspaper to bring it up to the correct level. For empty spaces try small silk flowers or greenery, wrapped candies (Hershey's Kisses look great), candy canes or other small items. Colorful shred from party supply stores and straw or colored tissue paper placed attractively as fans, newspaper, brown paper, old maps, music sheets, etc. work great. Peanuts in shells and coffee beans are also unique fillers.

How to display:

Place heavier and larger items in the center at the bottom. Place the smaller gifts and food items around the larger items. It is also a good idea to practice assembling your gift basket with various gift placements to get just the right arrangement.

Wrapping Ideas:

Transparent cellophane, raffia , tulle and ribbons.

Incorporate the wrapping materials as part of the present.

Decorative towels, scarves or linen make great wrapping materials.

Brown butcher paper and odds and ends of wrapping paper turned wrong side out decorated by you with stamps or let your kids color it.