

# Avoid holiday gift snafus: don't forget batteries

If you want to avoid one of the biggest holiday season jumbles, remember the batteries when giving gifts to kids and tech lovers.

Ninety percent of Americans have forgotten batteries for a holiday gift in the past, according to a survey by Energizer in 2016. And 44 percent of consumers take batteries out of their other devices to power a holiday gift if they forgot to purchase batteries at the store.

So don't let the phrase "Batteries Not Included" crush holiday cheer or require an anti-climactic run to the store.

Parents will want to be especially mindful of ensuring gifts are ready to use, as kids can be extra eager to play with their



new toys once opened. But whether it's a remote-controlled car, video game controller or robotic pet, recipients of all ages will want to enjoy their gifts right away, so don't forget

to read the labels on holiday items and be prepared.

Remember, batteries make for great stocking stuffers. And this year, you can get prepped for holidays present and future, as Energizer MAX AA batteries allow them to hold power for up to 10 years while in storage. They also offer long-lasting power and are designed to prevent damaging leaks, so gifts stay fun longer. More information can be found at energizer.com.

Even the best holiday gifts can lose their luster without batteries to operate them. Ensure the holidays end on a high note by remembering the batteries with your gifts this year. (StatePoint)

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# Christmas gift-giving guide for last minute shopping

Everyone has had to scurry around to find a last minute holiday gift at some point, whether you procrastinated, you were searching for the perfect gift or you forgot to add someone to your gift list, but don't let these scenarios cause you stress.

The discount experts at Dollar General are offering advice to help you find something for everyone this holiday season.

### Those Who Have Everything...

For the family and friends who have everything, consider purchasing small decorative items for them to use around their homes. Blankets, candles, picture frames and even holiday decorations are great last-minute items recipients will enjoy.

Food baskets with delicious snacks and holiday candy placed in a decorative canning jar are simple, affordable and useful items that are sure to make loved ones smile this season.

### Great Go-To Gift Items

For recipients who are hard to shop for, gift cards and technology items are great go-to gifts. Consider headphones, DVD players and TracFones. Gift cards to favorite restaurants, retail stores and coffee shops are



always a great choice, giving them freedom to choose exactly what they want.

### Gifts for Mom and Dad

Don't forget about mom and dad this holiday season. For Dad, save on Emerson

men's gifts like outdoor lanterns, portable tools for camping and winter clothing.

You can also find sleepwear, scarves and handbags that are sure to make Mom happy this holiday. (StatePoint)



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# Gerhard presents 34th Annual Christmas Guitar Concert

**Friday, December 16 & Saturday, December 17, 7:30pm, Portsmouth, NH**

A Portion of Proceeds to Benefit ACT ONE; Artists' Collaborative Theatre of New England "...considered the premier holiday event on the Seacoast." -Portsmouth Magazine

New Hampshire's own GRAMMY® Award-winning guitarist Ed Gerhard will present his popular Annual Christmas Guitar Concert in its 34th year on Friday, December 16 and Saturday, December 17 at the Unitarian Universalist Church, 292 State St, Portsmouth, NH. Showtime is 7:30pm. Doors open 6pm. Tickets are \$28 in advance and \$32 at the door. AVAILABLE AT: Celtic Crossing, Portsmouth; Exeter Music, Exeter; Ear Craft Music, Dover or by calling (603) 664-7200 or on the web at [www.virtuerecords.com](http://www.virtuerecords.com)

Join us for this very special evening with one of the country's finest acoustic guitarists. Gerhard will perform soulful arrangements of well-loved carols, as well as his own concert favorites. Fans of guitar music and Christmas alike will want to be a part of this memorable show. "These Christmas Concerts are more special to me every year. The music,



the audience.... the whole experience is profound for me. Sharing this experience with everyone is what being a musician is all about." -Ed

Gerhard's critically acclaimed holiday recordings, "Christmas" and "On A Cold

Winter's Night," continue to garner raves. Boston Globe calls "Christmas," "...the best holiday recording of the year... rivetingly lovely...this is a gem." His music is featured in the Ken Burns' documentary "Mark Twain" and "The National Parks: America's Best Idea."

Gerhard was awarded a GRAMMY® for his inclusion on the CD "Henry Mancini; Pink Guitar" a collection of Henry Mancini compositions. Gerhard arranged and performed Moon River.

Ed's CD "Luna" was Chosen by Acoustic Guitar Magazine's 20th Anniversary List of 240 Essential Albums. "This soulful album of original compositions rich in melody, chordal complexity and stylistic variety proves why Gerhard is considered to have the most exquisite acoustic guitar tone on the planet" - Acoustic Guitar Magazine In the season of giving we are doing a food drive at the concert. Bring a non-perishable food item to benefit Seacoast Family Food Pantry and receive a \$1-off coupon for any CD at the CD tables. One donation per CD please. "Gerhard does not write instrumentals. He writes songs only a guitar can sing." - Boston Globe

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# Strafford Wind Symphony Holiday Pops concert Dec. 3

**Rochester Opera House presents Strafford Wind Symphony Holiday Pops Concert, Dec. 3rd, 2016.**

Ring in the season with the annual Strafford Wind Symphony Holiday Pops Concert, featuring favorite tunes... old and new, a special narrated piece, and the famous gift basket raffle. The Strafford Wind Symphony's Holiday Pops Concert is great holiday entertainment for the whole family!

The Strafford Wind Symphony's purpose is to provide opportunities for enhanced growth and life – long musical expression through challenging musical experiences for its members, musical educational assistance for younger musicians, and the performance of concerts aimed at entertaining a wide range of audiences, supporting the history and heritage of the American Community Band.

Saturday, Dec 3rd, 2016. Tickets \$12 and \$7.00 (12 and under) Show starts at 7:00pm, doors open at 6:00pm. This show is sponsored by TD Bank North, Eastern Propane, Frisbie Memorial Hospital, Shaheen & Gordon P.A., Norm Vetter Founda-



tions, and The Ridge. The Rochester Opera House is located in City Hall, 31 Wakefield

Street, Rochester NH. Visit [www.RochesterOperaHouse.com](http://www.RochesterOperaHouse.com) for more information.

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# Holiday Festivities return to The Rocks Estate

The Rocks Estate opens for the season Nov. 19. Events include horse-drawn rides, cut-your-own Christmas trees, new Tree Maze, visits from Father Christmas, and holiday shopping

Snowflakes drifting onto evergreen boughs, horses plodding past historic buildings, marshmallows roasting on a fire: visitors to The Rocks Estate this holiday season will find all of this – and more. At this renowned Christmas tree farm, making Christmas memories goes beyond selecting the perfect tree, although you'll find that here, too.

"During Christmastime the farm is filled with a festive bustling," said Nigel Manley, longtime director of The Rocks. "There's a lot going on through the holidays, especially on the weekends, and we love to see families who return each year to find a tree, as well as first-time visitors."

The Rocks opens for the holiday season Nov. 19 and will be open daily from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. through Christmas Eve (with the exception of Thanksgiving Day, when the farm is closed). With two gift shops, a lovely variety of handmade-wreaths, and cut-your-own or precut Christmas trees, The Rocks is a one-stop holiday bonanza.

This year, The Rocks has added a "Tree Maze" for kids. Designed in the manner of popular corn mazes, the Tree Maze leads visitors into a field of fir trees, inviting them to find their way to the other side. The Tree Maze is one of many holiday-themed activities that make The Rocks a family favorite during the holiday season.

Horse-drawn wagon rides around the historic property are offered weekends through Dec. 17. The Rocks' own version of Father Christmas will be at the farm Saturdays. The shops – The Rocks Marketplace and The Rocks Gift Shop – are open daily through the season.

Here, shoppers will discover myriad holiday ornaments and decorations, along with an



array of locally-crafted and USA-made gift items, from handmade soaps and hand-knit hats to pet items and housewares. Wrought iron wind chimes crafted by Boyd and Doyle of Lancaster, wooden bowls made in Whitefield, nature-inspired jewelry from MAM Creative Designs in Henniker, and Northwoods Naturals soaps and lotions from Maine are among the myriad items filling the festive shelves.

"We have a lot of fun putting together our inventory for the season," said retail manager Carleen Quinn. "Every year we incorporate a mix of old favorites and new items, and we try to ensure our customers will be able to shop for everyone on their holiday gift list – and maybe find something for themselves, too."

Shoppers looking for extra convenience will find it in form of The Rocks Estate's "A Taste of New Hampshire" gift giving program. Choose from select packages – like an assortment of flavors from Vermont's Kingdom Kernel Kettle Corn or locally roasted coffee paired with a set of moose mugs made by local potter Joan

Hannah – and The Rocks will ship right to your doorstep.

Beyond working with local vendors, The Rocks also partners with other area non-profits during the holiday season. This year, the Adaptive Sports Partners of the North Country will once again manage food concessions – hot drinks, soups, chili, and more – each weekend of the season. Proceeds from food sales will help ASPNC in its continued work to provide people with disabilities with year-round sports and recreational opportunities.

The Rocks will again be supporting the Trees for Troops program and its national campaign to deliver more than 18,000 farm-grown Christmas trees to members of the United States military and their families at home and abroad this holiday season.

Can't make a trip to The Rocks? Don't fret; the Rocks' shopper-friendly online store offers a variety of Christmas trees and holiday wreaths, along with ornaments, garland, and tree accessories, as well as The Rocks' own maple syrup. All items include free shipping, and customers may create a holiday wish list and ship to multiple addresses with one order. Mail order shopping is open through Dec. 15.

The Rocks Estate is the North Country Conservation and Education Center of the Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests ([www.forestsociety.org](http://www.forestsociety.org)). The Forest Society is a non-profit membership organization founded in 1901 to protect the state's most important landscapes and promote wise use of its natural resources.

The landmark 1,400-acre Rocks Estate includes numerous buildings listed on the National Register of Historic Places and offers Agri- and Eco-tourism opportunities throughout the year. For more information please visit [www.therocks.org](http://www.therocks.org). For reservations and other inquiries e-mail [info@therocks.org](mailto:info@therocks.org) or call 603-444-6228.

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