

# You REALLY shouldn't have!



Sure it's the thought that counts and you are pleased that you were remembered but rather than tucking an undesirable gift away, why not consider the following options:

## Return it!



Often gifts are accompanied with gift receipts. This makes it easy to take the item back to the store for a refund, store credit or to exchange it for something you like and perhaps need. Some retailers will offer store credits or allow a consumer to exchange an unopened item after the holidays without a receipt if the item is clearly from their store indicated by a barcode or other symbol. Ask the store or check online for their refund/exchange policy and take note of any deadlines. While most stores will offer an extension on holiday returns, there are certain things to keep in mind when deciding if it is in your best interest financially to return an item.

- Will there be a restocking fee?
- Are you receiving full or partial value for the item? Retailers often mark items down after the holidays so without a receipt you may receive much less value.
- Will you have to pay shipping or handling costs to return the item to an online merchant?

## Donate it!



If you are unsuccessful in returning an item or you want to be generous, you have the option of donating it within the second-hand market to a charitable organization. By doing so, you are providing something you do not need to someone else who can really use it. In addition, you may be able to get a receipt from the charitable organization for the value of the item to use as a tax deduction.

## Sell it!



Nothing wrong with trying to make extra money during these difficult financial times! The Internet has several reputable auction sites where you can advertise those unwanted gifts that may be someone else's cup of tea. Then, you can save the money you make on the transaction for a rainy day or spend it to purchase something that you really need. If you lack experience as a buyer or seller of merchandise via the Internet, consider the following tips to assure yourself of a good reputation and/or rating as a seller:

- Use a third-party payment processor.
- Do not use identifying characteristics in your seller information.
- Respond to all inquiries and safely ship purchased merchandise promptly.

## Gift swap!



Just because you do not like the item does not mean someone else will not enjoy the product. Wrap up the unopened gift and give to someone else. You can even organize a post-holiday gift swap party for fun. Just make sure the person who gave it to you will not be there! Another idea is to keep the item on hand for when you need those last minute gifts.



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