

Top 10 Tackiest Father's Day Gifts Plus Tasteful Alternatives from Real Dads

Arlington Heights, Ill., June 17, 2009— “Dads” may not be well known for their sense of style or grace, but they are well aware of how quickly their children can empty their wallets. As the recession lingers, “savings and value” have become a necessity that fatherly figures everywhere can identify with. As a trusted savings resource, Restaurant.com has tapped its own hard working dads to determine what gifts might be better left unopened, along with other presents deemed meaningful without requiring extra spending.

“Father’s Day historically results in receiving some pretty wacky gifts that dads won’t use, empty kids’ wallets and sometimes even dad’s wallet,” said Cary Chessick, president, CEO and “chief dad” of Restaurant.com. “We want to encourage consumers to stay away from the tasteless and expected and point them in the direction of the thoughtful and economical. I knew I could depend on our in-house dads to come up with great low-cost, if not cost-free, alternatives for the most unseemly of un-cool gifts that they would not wish upon anyone.”

After much debate and consideration, Restaurant.com dads present the 10 tackiest Father’s Day gifts that children should avoid this year, in favor of more meaningful, cost-conscious presents.

1. Piano Tie– “Nothing says ‘don’t ever take me seriously’ quite like a musical piece of clothing. I have rhythm. I want to have style. Please skip the tie and find out if the local library or park district features musical acts. Then let’s go catch a free concert. Who could ask for anything more?”
~Dave DiPasquale, EVP of Operations

2. Fanny Pack– “I know their mom wears one, but save the retro gear for the ‘80s parties. Instead, pack a lunch with my favorite sandwich and let’s enjoy the view at a nearby park. Trust me. I will appreciate that kind of ‘pack’ much more.” ~Shane Baldino, VP of Restaurant Partner Marketing

3. Pet Rock – “I will not lie. I had a pet rock back in the day. Now, this one is dead last on my wish list. Avoid this no-function gift and instead offer to walk our dog or clean the cat’s litter box. I would definitely like a break from pet duty.” ~Zach Thompson, Corporate Recruiter

4. Soap-on-a-Rope– “Not only are you saying that I smell, you are eventually leaving me with a moldy rope of what once was a gift. Keep your gift clean and offer me a complimentary car wash.”
~Bryan Gordon, Customer Service Manager

5. Tuxedo T-Shirt– “I don’t get embarrassed very often, but I’m confident that this is a faux pas that no dad should be caught wearing. Keep me in style with a cool graphic t-shirt from my alma mater or favorite baseball team and let me pull out the real tux for weddings.” ~Tony Bombacino, CMO

6. Aerobics Video– “If I have a belly that is of the beer variety, please avoid the cheesy workout videos set to oldies music and treat me to a day at a golf course. Save money and burn calories by skipping the golf cart rental.” ~Peter Gorman, VP of Creative

7. Football Phone– “I am a sports fanatic, but at this point in my life I don’t need a pig skin inspired telephone. Instead, let’s toss the ball around in the yard. I’ll value the exercise and more importantly, the quality time spent with you.” ~Mike Knauer, Web Designer

8. Desktop Pool Table– “Fun cannot be confined to desktop dimensions. I would much rather spend time playing a real game of pool with you at the local arcade.” ~Adnan Ali, CIO

9. Lawn Gnomes– “The only decoration I’d welcome on the lawn is you—mowing. I’d gladly take a weekend off. That type of gift would truly be priceless yard art.” ~Doug Walgren, Manager of Application Development

10. A “Re-Gift”– “I may not remember every birthday, but I do know when something has been re-gifted. Instead of a golf club from the set I gave you for Christmas, keep it simple and give me a card with a meaningful—preferably original—message.” ~Lupo Chambaka, Technology Director

In an effort to keep wallets full, hold respect in-tact, and save dad from Father’s Day gift disaster, Restaurant.com is running a special 60-percent-off promotion on all gift certificates available through the site. Through the promotion, for example, \$25 gift certificates that traditionally sell for \$10 are available for \$4. To take advantage of the savings consumers should enter the code “DAD” at check-out.

“A great meal out with the family is something that never goes out of style and is a wonderful way to end a fun day with dad,” said Chessick. “Whether you choose to toss around the football, mow the lawn without being asked or wash the car free of charge, Restaurant.com offers affordable gift options that even mom can enjoy this Father’s Day.”