

For Everything There is a Season...and a Time for Every Purchase

If you want to get the best deals, it helps to know when the sales are. Did you know that most stores follow a regular sale pattern throughout the year? So you can know in advance when something will be going on sale!

Sale cycles revolve around the seasons. For example, fresh fruits and vegetables are always least expensive during their peak season. Other seasonal items such as winter clothes (coats, gloves, boots, hats, etc.) and summer patio furniture go on sale at the end of their respective seasons – although the selections may be limited.

Sales are also associated with holidays. For example, baking supplies (flour, sugar, chocolate chips, cocoa, etc.) always go on sale around Thanksgiving, Christmas, and Easter. Grill and picnic supplies (charcoal, lighter fluid, disposable plates, cups, napkins, plastic utensils) as well as condiments (ketchup, relish, mustard, mayonnaise, barbeque sauce) go on sale for Memorial Day, the Fourth of July, and Labor Day.

The cheapest prices on holiday supplies and decorations (Christmas, Halloween, Valentine's Day, etc.) can be found after the holiday. Holiday clearance items usually don't last long, though, so you have to get there soon or the stuff will be gone.

Here is a month-by-month guide to the biggest bargains:

JANUARY

Food:

Chocolate (Christmas clearance)
Diet foods
Frozen finger foods
Oatmeal
Party & snack foods (crackers, chips, dips, soda, etc.)
Produce in season
Soups
Yogurt

Non-food:

Air conditioners
Athletic shoes
Beauty & bath products
Bicycles
Boats
CDs/DVDs
Calendars & planners
Cameras
Candles
Carpeting and flooring
Cold medicines
Computers
Cookware
Electronics
Exercise equipment
Furniture
Health products & vitamins
Household storage items
Houses
Linens
Motorcycles
Outdoor gear
Small appliances
Toys (Christmas clearance)
Winter Clothes

FEBRUARY

Food:

Breakfast foods
Candy & chocolate
Canned goods
Chinese foods (Ramen noodles, soy sauce, etc.)
Oatmeal
Produce in season
Seafood & Steak

Non-food:

Air conditioners
Big screen TVs (pre-Super Bowl)
Boats
Cameras
Electronics
Humidifiers
Motorcycles
Recliners
Tools
Winter clothes

MARCH

Food:

Frozen foods (dinners, vegetables, ice cream, popsicles, waffles, etc.)
Irish foods (corned beef, potatoes)
Peanuts
Produce in season

Non-food:

Boats
China
Computers
Gardening supplies
Household cleaners
Video games

APRIL

Food:

Baking supplies
Butter
Cake frosting
Cake mix
Candy (Easter clearance)
Cheese
Dinner rolls
Eggs
Frozen pies
Ham
Jewish/Passover items
Mustard
Olive oil
Organic foods
Pie crusts
Produce in season
Ready-made dough

Non-Food:

Cookware
Electronics
Energy-saving items
Gift basket supplies
Tires & car care supplies
Vacuums

MAY

Food:

Bottled water
Cheese
Chips & dips
Condiments
Deli platters
Frozen pies
Grilling meats
Ground beef
Hamburger/hot dog buns
Hotdogs
Ice cream

Mexican food (salsa, tacos, tortillas, etc.)
Popsicles
Produce in season
Salad dressing
Soda

Non-food:

Allergy medications
Athletic apparel
Cookware
Coolers
Graduation supplies
Grill supplies
Insect repellent
Picnic supplies
Pet food & treats
Pool & beach toys
Small appliances
Sunscreen
Towels
Vacuums

JUNE

Food:

Bottled water
Condiments
Dairy products (milk, eggs, butter, cheese, ice cream, yogurt, whipped cream)
Iced tea mix & tea bags
Grilling meats
Juice
Popsicles
Produce in season
Soda

Non-food:

Computers
Grill supplies
Tools (around Father's Day)

JULY

Food:

Baked beans
Bottled water
Chips
Condiments
Grilling meats
Ground beef
Hamburger/hot dog buns
Hot dogs
Ice cream
Iced tea mix & tea bags
Popsicles
Produce in season
Salad dressing
Soda

Non-food:

Computers
Furniture
Grill supplies
Insect repellent
Picnic & party supplies
(disposable plates, cups,
napkins & utensils)
School supplies
Sunscreen
Swimwear

AUGUST

Food:

American cheese
Bottled water
Breakfast bars
Cereal
Chips
Cookies
Drink boxes
Ice cream
Iced tea mix
Jelly
Lunch meat
Peanut butter
Produce in season
Snack cakes
Soda
Yogurt

Non-food:

Air conditioners

Camping equipment
Dehumidifiers
Grills & grill supplies
Outdoor toys
Patio furniture
Pool supplies
Summer clothes, sandals,
swimwear

SEPTEMBER

Food:

American cheese
Bread/buns
Breakfast bars
Canned fruits & veggies
Cereal
Chips
Condiments
Cookies
Drink boxes
Frozen pies
Ground beef
Hot dogs
Jelly
Lunch meat
Organic foods
Peanut butter
Produce in season
Pudding cups
Salad dressing
Snack cakes
Soda
Soups & broth
Spaghetti sauce
Tomato sauce
Waffles
Yogurt

Non-food:

Baby items
Cars
Diabetic items
Grills & grill supplies
Inflatable pools
Large appliances
(refrigerators, stoves,
washers, dryers)
Lawn mowers
Picnic supplies
School supplies

Summer clothes
Trees, shrubs, & bulbs

OCTOBER

Food:

Broth
Candy
Canned fruits & veggies
Cookies
Dried fruits
Produce in season
Soups

Non-food:

Batteries
Jeans
Large appliances
Lawn mowers
Pet products
Smoke alarms
Tires & car care supplies
Trees, shrubs & bulbs

NOVEMBER

Food:

Baking supplies
Bread/rolls
Butter
Cake mix, frosting
Candy (Halloween
clearance)
Canned foods (soup,
broth, condensed milk,
vegetables, fruits, sauce)
Cheese
Cranberry sauce
Dried fruits
Frozen pies
Gravy
Hot cocoa, coffee, tea
Marshmallows
Nuts
Oatmeal
Pie crusts & filling
Produce in season
Ready-made dough
Soup & broth
Spices
Stuffing
Turkey

Non-food:

Aluminum foil
Baby products
Carpeting & flooring
Cookware
Disposable baking pans
Electronics
Plastic wrap
Quilts, blankets
Tools
Toys
Trees, shrubs, & bulbs

DECEMBER

Food:

Baking supplies
Butter
Cake mix, frosting
Cheese & crackers
Deli platters
Dinner rolls
Dried fruits
Frozen pies
Ham
Nuts
Oatmeal
Pie crusts & filling
Produce in season
Refrigerated cookie dough
Soda
Soups
Spices

Non-food:

Aluminum foil
Carpeting & flooring
Cars & motorcycles
Christmas decorations,
wrapping paper, etc.
Computers
Disposable baking pans
Electronics
Fall décor & crafts
Holiday party supplies
Plastic wrap
Tools
Toys
Wedding Dresses
Winter clothes

More Money-Saving Tips

- Buy clothing items at the department store's end-of-the-season clearance sales. Be sure to allow for your child's growth. Go one to two sizes larger for younger children, and one size larger for older children.
- Even if you prefer new clothing and household items, don't overlook secondhand stores such as Goodwill and Salvation Army. While most of the merchandise there is used, they often receive new clothing and household items that were left over from department store clearance racks. The secondhand stores mark down these prices even more once they get them, and they often have their own sales too!

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