

## 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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