

Gift Ideas for Alzheimer's & Dementia Patients

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Searching for the perfect gift for a loved one with Alzheimer's or dementia does not have to be difficult.”

Ian Bongaardt, Owner of CK of Montgomery County & the Main Line

Finding a gift for a senior loved one with [Alzheimer's disease or dementia](#) is not always easy. Fortunately, there are Alzheimer's gift guides and products that can help make your search stress-free this holiday season. These guides will give you the information you need to purchase a great gift.

Learn more from these gift ideas below for Alzheimer's and dementia patients.

Gift Ideas for Alzheimer's and Dementia

Searching for the perfect gift for a loved one with Alzheimer's or dementia does not have to be difficult.

The Alzheimer's Association recommends that you first consider what stage of the disease your loved one is in when shopping for a gift for them. As you will see, the choice in gifts for an early stage will be different from ones that are for the late stage of the disease. Thus, the choice of gift depends on the cognitive abilities of your loved one.

In the early stages of Alzheimer's, for instance, a gift may not be very different from what you'd give your loved one before their diagnosis. There is some memory loss, but it will not detract from the thoughtfulness of your gift. In later stages of the disease, however, sensory stimulating gifts become more important, because the stimulus could bring back some of your loved one's memories. At this point, your older adult will not be able to recall his or her phone number or even family members names. Since there is a loss communication, you may think this would make it harder to find a great gift. That's not the case. You can get your elderly parent a blanket, sweater or a picture book. It is easy to make a picture book of your own family photos or you can make one from a collection of photos you gathered from your loved one's own photo albums.

Here are some gift ideas for Alzheimer's by stage that you can use when searching for a gift for a loved one this holiday season:

Early Stage Gifts:

Activity books, like crossword puzzles or strategy games. Large piece puzzles will make it easier for assembly. A jigsaw puzzle of a nostalgic scene (e.g. a malt shop) also makes the perfect gift. It will stir up memories, in which you can encourage your loved one to talk about.

Classic movies and television shows than can stimulate your loved one. You can compare your

loved one's favorite movies and television shows with the ones you like. This is a great conversation starter!

CD's and music that allow your loved one to reminisce and/or a music player.

A memorable photo album or calendar that features special family occasions and family photos. The calendar should be large print, so your older adult can easily tell the day of the week as well as keep track of important dates.

A memory phone that can store photos with the contact information and names of your loved one's family and friends. It can be dial-less or contain large images as the buttons. The buttons represent family members' phone numbers as well as ones for fire and police.

You can create a themed gift basket that contains one or more of the above items. An "activity book" basket could contain crossword puzzles, word searches and coloring books along with colored pencils and pens. Another great gift basket theme is "bath and spa day." It can contain a robe, slippers, bath gel, a battery-operated candle, and scented soap.

Middle Stage Gifts:

Erasable whiteboards that highlight key rooms or areas in your loved one's home. They are also great for leaving messages and holiday greetings.

A large typed clock that highlights both the date and time. You can get a day clock in various sizes and styles.

Automatic nightlights that will light for your loved one as soon as it gets dark.

An automatic medication dispenser. This will prevent an additional dosage or medication from being dropped and lost.

Simple craft activities that inspire reminiscing. These gifts can include building a birdhouse, a wind chime or an apron. They provide a creative outlet while strengthening coordination skills.

A location device that can track your loved one for when he or she becomes disoriented and wanders. Wandering is a serious concern for dementia patients at this stage. As part of your dementia care, you will need to install extra locks on the front and back doors of your home as safety measures.

Late Stage Gifts:

In the later stages of dementia, sensory stimulating gifts can include:

A fluffy bathrobe or a soft blanket in a favorite color.

Comfortable clothes like sweat suits and shoes with Velcro ties that can make dressing and undressing easier on a loved one. You can also get slippers with velcro ties.

A doll or stuffed animal. They have a calming effect on dementia patients.

Music and CD's that feature songs from your loved one's childhood or teenage years.

A fiddle muff, which is a pocket or glove that has items on the inside of it a person can fiddle with. Giving Alzheimer disease patients something to fiddle with has a calming effect on them, just like holding (or petting) a stuffed animal. This sensory stimulation product comes in many

colors and sizes.

Many of these holiday gifts can be found in nursing homes that have an Alzheimer's unit (a floor). On the unit, there are several stations that represent happy memories or life stages for Alzheimer's patients. One station is of a baby changing table with a lifelike baby doll. This represents when the patient was a new parent. There's a station with a jukebox containing music from the mid-1950s to the mid-1960s. This is the time period most dementia patients remember the most. There's also a cooking station with cooking tools and cookbooks. These items bring back memories of cooking, especially a mother cooking for her family or making holiday cookies.

If you still need more information on practical gifts for your loved one, the Alzheimer's Society of Canada has a list of stores that carry fun dementia gifts. You'll find a number of great products for every budget, from a large piece jigsaw puzzle and easy-grip gardening tools to weighted stuffed animals and matching games. Whether you are thinking of a photo album or a soft blanket, you're sure to find a wonderful gift.

[Caring for Seniors](#) in Delaware County

Whether it's Christmas or Fourth of July, our Comfort Keepers are here to provide the care home plan you need for your loved one. We offer a full range of services from dementia and Alzheimer's to transitioning and interactive caregiving. We are happy to answer your questions regarding care for your loved one during the holidays (e.g. Christmas day) or the best gifts that match your elderly parent's cognitive skills. Contact us today to schedule a free in-home assessment!

This release was drafted by [Results Driven Marketing, LLC](#): a full-service digital marketing, public relations, advertising and content marketing firm located in Philadelphia, PA.

Related Materials:

Aging Veterans or Widows of Veterans May Qualify For In Home Care Benefits

<https://springfield-326.comfortkeepers.com/home/home-care-services/aging-veterans-benefit-special-pension-aid-and-att>

A good Low-Impact Workout for Seniors

<https://kingofprussia-812.comfortkeepers.com/home/blog?article=64&date=2018-08-06&title=a-good-low-impact-workout-for-seniors-receiving-in-home-care>

What is Dementia Care?

<https://www.ourcaregiversrock.com/dementia-care-properly-treat-disease/>

Ian Bongaardt

Comfort Keepers Springfield

+12153938700

[email us here](#)

Visit us on social media:

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