

# Don't Forget New Postal Rules For Holiday Packages

It's never too early to start thinking about Christmas - especially when gifts have to be packed and mailed far away. And this year, new postal regulations that went into effect last spring make it even more important than ever for you to make sure that your packages are wrapped just so. If not, they could be turned down at the local post office window as unacceptable.

The new regulations are simple measures to protect your packages from travel mishaps, delayed delivery, damage or loss and the never-received "limbo". When new rules go into effect, confusion often follows but the 3M Company, leader in the manufacture of tapes for more than 50 years, has devised a nearly foolproof system that's easy to follow.

Keep these guidelines in mind when preparing packages for mailing:

+Don't use masking tape for package closure or reinforcement. It's no longer acceptable, due to poor past performance.

+Avoid stapling, as it may damage package wraps or cause injury to personnel doing the handling.

+ Brown wrapping paper and conventional twine or card are not necessary. Tapes applied directly to the package are preferred.

+Containers: choose a solid and corrugated fiberboard carton.

+Inside information: items inside the box should be protected from each other with paper, plastic shredding or excelsior to cushion heavy objects from fragile ones. To prevent lateral shifting,

fill the box to capacity.

+Preliminary securing: tape down ends of closures and joints with pressure-sensitive tape - "Scotch" Package Sealing Tape, for instance. It's important that tape extend three inches over the adjoining sides to support your final banding.

+Banding: use a very strong, self-adhesive filament tape for banding. "Scotch" Strapping Tape

is especially good for this purpose. It has a powerful 140 to 210 pound and an extra strong grip that won't weaken even under severe climate conditions.

+Method: when banding for closure and reinforcement, the filament tape should encircle the package at least girthwise and lengthwise. The longer and wider the container, the more times it should be encircled.

+Markings: use a smudge-proof ink for the address, zip code and return address. Print clearly and large enough for markings to be read at 30 inches.

+Mail early: overseas surface mail should be sent six to seven weeks in advance, while air mail needs at least a month to make it in time for Christmas. So do cross-country packages. And, allow at least two weeks for local package mail.

By following this system which was developed according to the new postal regulations, you'll find there's no hassle in getting your package to its "Merry Christmas" destination on time.

## How To Buy The Right Toys

Should it be educational, have wheels, be a game for the whole family? With or without batteries? These are just a few of the questions parents are asking as they prepare to buy Christmas toys.

But it's not that hard to buy the right toy, says Bud Coble, national merchandise manager for toys at Sears, Roebuck. He gives these tips for toy shopping:

1. First, identify the category of toy that interests your child. Crafts, games or mechanical? Then take him or her on a preliminary shopping trip, or look through a catalog together to see

what really makes the eyes light up.

2. The right toy must be understandable. It should encourage child involvement... require some skill, have an element of surprise and leave some room for play acting.

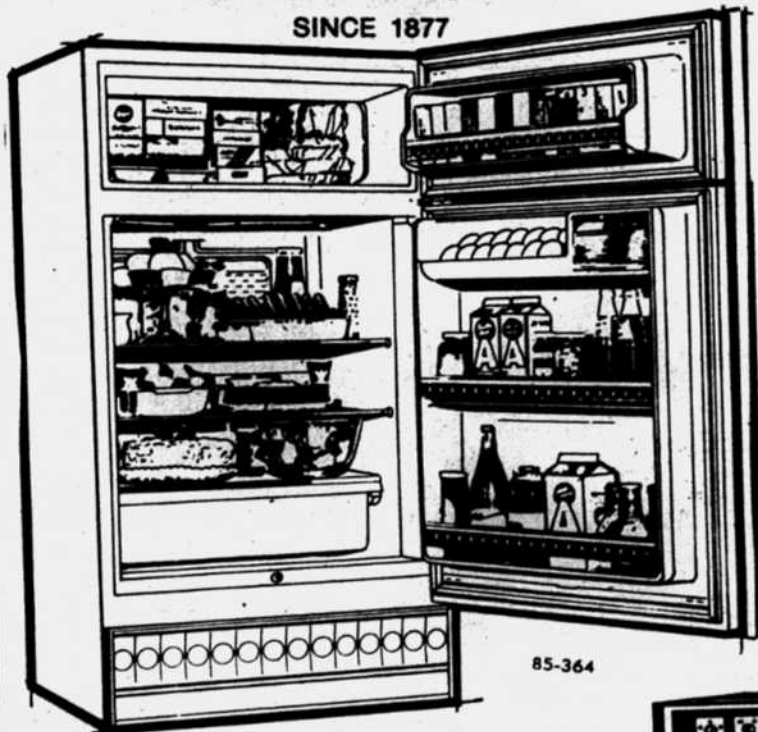
3. Gear the toy to the child's age level. Most toys sold in stores and through catalogs indicate the age range. (Make sure it appeals to a wide range if it's to be played by the whole family.)

4. Cost? If you're on a limited budget, games are probably the best buy. Whether it's an old standby like Monopoly or one of the

new electronic brainteasers, they offer variety, excitement and the most involvement for the least investment.

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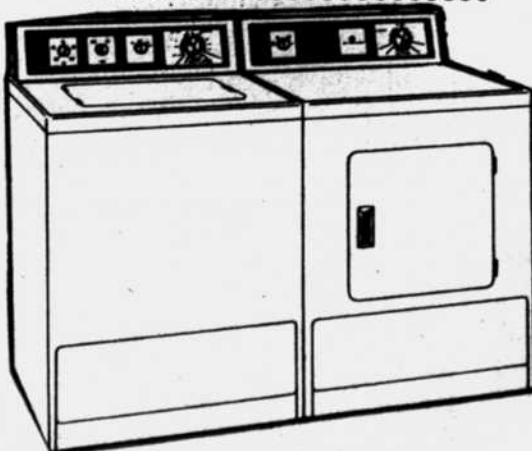
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