Printable checklist

Gift Basket Planner

Set the budget, tick off the supplies, then build it in the right order. Themed lists follow.

For _____ **Occasion** _____

Budget $ _____ **Give by** _____

The formula

1 hero item
About half the budget. It's the thing they keep, so buy it well.

3 to 5 extras
Consumables that match the theme: food, drinks, treats.

A container they keep
A crate, colander, bucket or tote that's part of the gift.

Shopping list

		TYPICAL	YOUR COST
☐	**Hero item**	½ the budget	$
☐	**Extra 1**		$
☐	**Extra 2**		$
☐	**Extra 3**		$
☐	**Extra 4**	optional	$
☐	**Extra 5**	optional	$
☐	Container (basket, crate, bucket or colander)	$0–$15	$
☐	Filler (crinkle paper, tissue or a folded towel)	$0–$5	$
☐	Cellophane or a clear bag	$1–$6	$
☐	Ribbon	$0–$5	$
☐	Card or tag	$0–$5	$
		Total	**$**

Already have a basket, ribbon or tissue at home? Use it. Supplies bought new for one basket can add $17 to $36.

Put it together

- ☐ **Pick a tight theme.** One idea, like "get well" or "new home".
- ☐ **Choose a container that's part of the gift:** a colander, bucket, crate, tote or trug.
- ☐ **Start with the hero item** at the back. It's the largest or most exciting thing.
- ☐ **Add height with filler,** so smaller items sit high and face forward.
- ☐ **Layer from tall to short,** back to front, with labels facing out.
- ☐ **Wrap in clear cellophane** gathered with ribbon, or leave it open with a big bow.
- ☐ **Add a handwritten tag** that explains the theme and what you're wishing them.

Themed shopping lists

Tick what you buy and note the cost

Get well soon

$25–$40 to build

★ **Hero:** A throat-soothing herbal tea

- ☐ A jar of honey $ _____
- ☐ Instant soup $ _____
- ☐ Soft tissues with lotion $ _____
- ☐ Lip balm $ _____
- ☐ Large-print puzzle book $ _____
- ☐ Cosy socks $ _____
- ☐ _____ $ _____
- ☐ _____ $ _____
- ☐ _____ $ _____

Tip: Skip flowers and anything scented. Strong smells are unwelcome when someone feels unwell.

Sympathy comfort

$35–$60 to build

★ **Hero:** A meal-delivery gift card

- ☐ Good crackers and cheese $ _____
- ☐ Cookies $ _____
- ☐ Tea $ _____
- ☐ A soft throw $ _____
- ☐ A handwritten card $ _____
- ☐ _____ $ _____
- ☐ _____ $ _____
- ☐ _____ $ _____
- ☐ _____ $ _____

Tip: Choose food that needs no preparation, and nothing that asks the family to do something in return.

New baby

$50–$80 to build

★ **Hero:** A pack of muslin swaddles

- ☐ A board book $ _____
- ☐ Gentle baby wash $ _____
- ☐ A soft toy $ _____
- ☐ Snacks for the parents $ _____
- ☐ A treat just for the parents $ _____
- ☐ _____ $ _____
- ☐ _____ $ _____
- ☐ _____ $ _____
- ☐ _____ $ _____

Tip: Buy from the registry first if there is one, then add a few personal extras.

Housewarming

$35–$55 to build

★ **Hero:** A good hand soap and dish soap set

- ☐ Two good dish towels $ _____
- ☐ A candle $ _____
- ☐ A bottle of olive oil $ _____
- ☐ A small plant $ _____
- ☐ A takeout menu for night one $ _____
- ☐ _____ $ _____
- ☐ _____ $ _____
- ☐ _____ $ _____
- ☐ _____ $ _____

Tip: Pack it in a colander or a storage basket they can keep.

Themed shopping lists

Tick what you buy and note the cost

Thank you

$25–$45 to build

★ **Hero:** A jam sampler

- ☐ Scones or shortbread $ _____
- ☐ A bag of good coffee or tea $ _____
- ☐ A handwritten card $ _____
- ☐ _____ $ _____
- ☐ _____ $ _____
- ☐ _____ $ _____
- ☐ _____ $ _____

Tip: Say exactly what you're thanking them for in the card. Specific thanks mean far more.

Birthday party-in-a-box

$35–$50 to build

★ **Hero:** Birthday cake truffles

- ☐ Birthday candles $ _____
- ☐ A party hat or crown $ _____
- ☐ Confetti $ _____
- ☐ Something sparkling $ _____
- ☐ A card signed by friends $ _____
- ☐ _____ $ _____
- ☐ _____ $ _____

Tip: Perfect for posting to someone celebrating far from home.

New job

$35–$50 to build

★ **Hero:** A reusable smart notebook

- ☐ Good pens $ _____
- ☐ A desk plant $ _____
- ☐ Snacks for the first week $ _____
- ☐ A coffee shop gift card $ _____
- ☐ _____ $ _____
- ☐ _____ $ _____
- ☐ _____ $ _____

Tip: Add a note with your best advice for their first 90 days.

Book lover

$60–$90 to build

★ **Hero:** A three-month book club membership

- ☐ A bookmark $ _____
- ☐ Tea $ _____
- ☐ A book light $ _____
- ☐ A small treat $ _____
- ☐ A favourite paperback, with a note $ _____
- ☐ _____ $ _____
- ☐ _____ $ _____

Tip: If they only read e-books, swap the paperback for an e-book gift card.

See 14 baskets and what goes inside

Every basket in our guide lists the contents, the hero item worth buying well and what it costs to build.

mygiftcompass.com/gift-basket-ideas

My Gift Compass

Free to print and share