



Housewarming Gift Baskets

A new home comes with new aspirations and new beginnings. Our friends are experiencing a new beginning, as they are moving into a safe place and beginning a journey to restoration. New homes often require a bit of work to get everything in shape; in our lives a housewarming occasion marks the start of working on a new life. We ask for your support in helping us create housewarming experiences for our friends so that we can ensure a positive transition as they begin to connect to the community. Remember, for most of our friends this may be their first place or they have not been in a home for several years and generally don't have many

possessions. Here are some ideas for housewarming gift baskets for a new home.

- **Cooking Collection**

In a reusable container (large cookie tin, plastic space saver, etc.) place items like: can opener, spatula set, measuring spoons, oven mitts, cooking whisk, vegetable peeler, and so on. Or you can give larger items like baking pans, dishtowels and serving dishes. The aim is to give practical items but also ones that people may not be able to get for themselves right away.

- **Bedroom Comfort**

Help us create a comfortable night's sleep by providing pillows, a blanket, an alarm clock, a quilt, a warm bathrobe and pajamas.

- **Kitchen Gadgets**

In a folding shopping cart, place a toaster oven, toaster, microwave, tea kettle or coffee maker (don't forget the tea bags, coffee, or mugs). Include a simple cookbook or a collection of your favorite easy recipes.

- **Bathroom Essentials**

Again for the "first place" housewarming, think in practical terms. Extra towels (in a neutral color and pattern), toilet brush, soap dish, toothbrush holder and bath mat are the type of items that people don't receive right away but always need.

- **Helping Hand**

Many times when people move into a new place, they often don't receive the smaller things. Take a canvas bag or laundry basket and fill it with items like paper towels, toilet paper, laundry detergent, light bulbs, tissues, window cleaner, towels, linen, drinking glasses, etc.

- **Bathroom Collection**

In a small trashcan include soaps, hand towels, a liquid soap dispenser, toothbrush holder, and a bath rug which can be quite appreciated, particularly for those just starting out.

- **Laundry Essentials**

In a laundry bag, place a roll of quarters or a small change bag with some quarters in it, small laundry detergent, spot remover, dryer sheets, directions on how to do basic laundry.

- **A First Aid Kit**

You can buy a complete First Aid Kit, or like the toolbox, make one of your own. A small storage container will suit your purposes. Fill it with bandages of different sizes, some gauze and gauze tape, a small pair of scissors, a pair of tweezers, a burn ointment, and an antibiotic ointment. Include a note that has first aid tips that have worked for you and your family.

- **Home Entertainment Package**

You can add anything to it that comes to mind. A deck of cards, writing pads, word search puzzles, a book, a board game, a walkman or small radio. Think about the things that you do in your alone time at home that others might enjoy.

- **A Basket of Tools**

Who can find the right screw driver or pliers when everything is packed away? Gather together the basics for the move-in.

- **A Garden Basket**

How many times have you looked around and wished you'd planted a small garden or had a new plant when you moved into your home, rather than 5 years later? A basket with basic gardening tools, a pot, a plant, dirt, and fertilizer will be the start of a garden that will be enjoyed the whole time your friends live there.

- **Art in Progress**

You can never have enough picture frames and artwork when you move into a new home. A small basket is perfect for this gift. Include a small level and photo frame, and a disposable camera so they can take photos of themselves in their new home.

- **Personal Pampering**

A housewarming gift that will allow a little personal pampering is also guaranteed to bring a smile. Send a basket of bath salts, bubble bath, candles, skin lotion, Q-tips, emery boards, soaps and shampoos. Include a back massager or a pedicure set with polish for an extra treat. For our male friends, put together a grooming kit that includes a razor, shaving cream, cologne, and a manicure set. Think about throwing in a bathrobe and bedroom shoes.