

MONDAY	TODAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	WEEKEND
Last-chance gifts	New in '08	Food and beverage	Stuff for children	Active gear	Home and garden

EIGHT IN '08

Top trends for the new year



1 GIVING BACK

Charitable contributions, volunteering and supporting causes through the purchase of products sold by companies that donate goods or cash to worthy recipients has steadily increased since the late 1990s, and 2008 promises the same. Bottom line: Americans are more benevolent than ever — maybe because the Internet has made it easier than ever to be generous, maybe because a plague of natural disasters worldwide has tapped our hearts and wallets. One new product that's in the spirit of giving is the BOGO solar-powered light (two trends in one, really, as solar will also be big in the new year). It costs \$35 and never needs batteries: After 10 hours under the sun, it gives off six to eight hours of light. And when you buy one, the manufacturer will donate an identical light to a community in Africa (hence the name: buy one, give one). More at CurrentEnergy.com.

4 PAMPERING YOURSELF

Spa services have gone from once-in-a-while indulgences to everyday occurrences. The very best spas are a soothing escape from reality, and homeowners have embraced that tranquility. Moen's nature-inspired Bamboo Collection (\$71.80 to \$1,495) was designed to transform an ordinary bath into a private retreat. More at showhouse.moen.com.



7 DRIVING A HYBRID

It can no longer be ignored: Drivers are asking for hybrids. Many manufacturers have waiting lists, and there's bound to be one for the 2009 Durango Hybrid (price TBA). Like any hybrid SUV, it's a bit hypocritical, but this segment gets its due in the coming year. More at Dodge.com.



2 GOING GREEN

As the planet heats up, so goes the green trend: Environmentally responsible, sustainable and renewable are on everyone's lips. Plastic water bottles were fingered as a major environmental evil in 2007. Soon, recycling will no longer be an option; even now it's the right thing to do. Each Re-Run messenger bag (\$89.95) keeps 10 plastic water bottles out of landfills — and it's way cute. More at GenerationOrange.com.

3 PAMPERING PETS

The pet industry can barely keep up. Pet owners are simply crazy for their critters, and they've seemingly endless funds with which to shower the objects of their affection with goods and services. They're expected to spend a record amount to feed, clothe and care for their furry friends in 2008.

In that vein, not any ole pet bed will do. The Nest (\$95) from Hepper has an enviable modern design. More at HepperHome.com.



5 EATING WELL

Trans fats got the boot in 2007. More additives are on the way out. Consumers want ingredients lists that read like recipes — not elaborate chemistry experiments. They want old-fashioned food, like organic Ezekiel 4:9 Sprouted Grain Pasta (\$3.29 to \$3.79 for a 16-oz. package). More at FoodforLife.com.

6 DRINKING BEER

Just as artisanal foods are hotter than ever, so goes the drink. But not just any drink. Craft beers like Magic Hat (\$7.99 per six-pack) have taken hold and promise to be bigger than ever in 2008, as people continue to turn away from what used to be the mainstay. More at MagicHat.net.



8 HD EVERYTHING

Television. Radio. Movies. You name it. Soon you won't be able to swing a bat in this town without hitting something high-def. Of course the iPod's still hot, too. The Polk I-Sonic ES2 (\$499) combines HD radio and iTunes Tagging in one device. More at HDRadio.com.



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