

WHAT TO BUY A NEW HOMEOOWNER

► What's the first thing every new homeowner wants to do after a long day of moving in? Relax with a glass of wine, or course. This gift ensures many glasses of wine: a case of 2006 Tannat wine, bottled by Cameron Hughes. This wine offers an "intense blue fruited nose of perfumed loganberry" and "a hint of thyme." Not a oenophile? It's a red. One bottle: \$7.99. Case: \$86.29, at *The Andersons*.

▲ The cordless drill has many uses, from drilling holes to driving screws to mixing paint. A well-accessorized option available at *Home Depot* is the ¼-inch Ryobi Tek, 4V Lithium-Ion drill/screwdriver set for \$29.97. Painted an eye-catching bright green, it includes a color-coordinated carrying bag, and a 6-piece set of screwdriver bits.

► Every new home needs to smell good. That's where the diffuser comes in. A bundle of reeds absorbs fragrant oil from a bottle and diffuses it into the air. Chesapeake Bay Candle Diffusers come in a variety of scents, including Asian Ginger & Apple. The sets come with a ceramic bottle, reeds, and oil. Available at *Kohl's* for \$24.99.

► No new home is complete without a well-equipped kitchen, and a very desirable — not to say indispensable — item in such a kitchen is a blender and a food processor for everything from chopping vegetables, to pulverizing ice, to making milkshakes. A solid choice for a family is the Oster, 14-speed Blender, which is available at *Sears* for \$39.99. The device has a 450-watt motor and a five-cup glass jar with "high-performance ice-crushing blade." On-line reviews like its low noise level.

► The rolling, portable Reel Easy Hose Reel Cart is not exactly a necessity, but it is a great convenience. The reel stores a garden hose in a compact and attractive way. There are numerous types of hose reels, ranging from the basic, to powered, hanging, and decorative reels. On sale at *The Andersons* for \$29.99.

◀ A new home with lots of rooms, of course, cries out for televisions. The sales manager at *Appliance Center* tells us that a good size to buy as a gift is the 32-inch. A Toshiba is available on sale for \$347, down from \$449. The specs are: 720p, LCD.

▼ Stay toasty and warm in your new home this winter with the Duraflame Compact Electric Stove that can heat just a single room and save on gas bills. This item displays the appearance of a crackling fire, with or without heat. The Duraflame puts out 4,600 BTUs and heats up to 400 square feet as a supplemental source. Available at *Lowe's* for \$99.

◀ Some gardeners like to personalize their little backyard piece of paradise with fence hangings. A garden wall plaque, with holes for two picture hangers or nails in the back, made by Evergreen, says, "This place is for the birds." \$15.99 at *The Andersons*.

◀ A shop-vac has a variety of uses, one of them being to vacuum up major spills, leaks, and minor flooding, and every home will end up with at least one. Might as well start out with it. A 12-gallon shop-vac from *Lowe's* has a carrying handle, reaches peak power of 5.5 hp, and sells for \$79.97. A more economical model is the 6-gallon, with 3 hp peak power, for \$44.97.

◀ Hardwood floors are as popular today as ever and busy people need modern ways to keep those floors clean. A method gaining popularity is steam rather than a bucket of water and cleaner. The Shark Steam Pocket Mop blasts steam through pads that absorb dirt and can be washed. The steam mop comes with five "microfiber" mop heads, one of them pointed for the corners, and a retractable cord. Available at *Kohls*, \$99.99, on sale. Also available is a Shark Vacuum & Steam Mop.