

# Who let the dogs in?



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Long gone are the days when dogs were farm hands corralling the herd. At night, if allowed indoors they slept on the floor, never on the furniture. Today, dogs enjoy all the trappings of domestic life and are considered an integral part of the family in many households.

So, it's only fitting that we provide them with a safe and happy home environment. You don't have to sacrifice great interior design and décor to keep a dog happy in your house (or condo, or cottage, etc.).

There are fantastic and creative ways to incorporate features that will keep both parties happy.

**Designer doggie gates.** Now that they're indoors, dogs, like people need barriers, visual cues and discipline to help them navigate through life at home. Access and restrictions are easily marked by a gate or door. While baby gates may do the job, we're seeing custom solutions that seamlessly blend with the staircase.

**Private dog parks.** One client, with two energetic Portuguese Water dogs landscaped the side yard with artificial turf creating multi levels for climbing, jumping and hanging around. It makes this an ideal spot for Spot, and humans only come in to clean up! If you have the space, just adding a small

run outside gives your animal an outdoor space on the days long walks aren't possible. It also makes cleanups easier when their business is confined to one area.

**Built in dog-washing station.** One client incorporated a dog washing station in their plans. Not only is it practical, it was a fun decorating project using graffiti-based, glossy tile.

It's a room where everything can get wet and does! The raised basin was built to save human backs. That along with a retractable shower head, lower taps and faucet make the job of cleaning your dog fun.

**Custom doggie headboards.** A friend of mine created a DIY project that added luxury to his dog's bed, without the high cost. He painted a



The ever-growing, dog-friendly lifestyle market. First we let them into our home, then onto the furniture and finally into our hearts.

chalkboard wall in his master bedroom, so he could draw in a fancy headboard, one that he could update as he liked.

He also added a chalkboard wall above his dog's bed, so she too could have a fancy, hand drawn headboard. It may even keep her off her master's bed!

**Condos market to dog-owners.** Lifestyle marketing has always been the mainstay of new condo advertising. Now we're seeing campaigns

directed at dog owners looking for dog-friendly common elements.

Dog daycare centres are located onsite so you know your pet will be entertained while you're not home and dog washing stations are available, so you don't have to track dirt and mud into your home. We're also seeing designated dog runs and parks around condo lands and even roof top dog parks!

The ever-growing dog-

friendly lifestyle market thrives because we love our dogs (and cats) and consider their lifestyle as important as our own.

First we let them into our home, then onto the furniture and finally into our hearts. Once you're owned by a dog, you're never the same.

— Jane Lockhart is a celebrity designer, TV personality and leading expert in the world of design. Visit [www.janelockhart.com](http://www.janelockhart.com).

# Gift ideas for every type of dad



NATALIE DEANE  
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A great dad deserves a fantastic present, one that plays to his interests. This Father's Day, Sunday, June 17, give him a gift that makes him crack a smile. Still stuck on finding the perfect gift?

Not to worry, I've rounded up some of the years top-rated gifts for every kind of dad.

## Stressed dad

Dads deserve spa days too! You'd be surprised at how much they love a mani-pedi.

Send Dad to the ultra-luxe Spa at the Four Seasons Hotel. This 30,000 sq. ft. Yorkville retreat features 17 spacious treatment rooms, two steam rooms, one pool and has been showered with rave reviews.

Get him the The King Street package (\$400), designed exclusively for men — it includes a Deep-Tissue Massage and The 6ix Facial. The perfect stress reliever!

## The grill master

If your Dad spends his summer manning the grill then

it time for a grilling upgrade. With patented grilling technology Napoleon has become the name you can trust for high quality barbeques.

The new Napoleon Rogue SE 425 (Home Depot \$899) comes with a 15-year limited warranty and 425 square inches of grilling space. It even had a built-in bottle opener! How cool is that?!



DIY dad will be all smiles when he opens the Husky Bucket Tool Jockey.

## The handyman

The Husky Bucket Tool Jockey (Home Depot \$17.98) is the latest must-have for the do-it-all Dad and even better, it doesn't break the bank. This handy cover converts any five-gallon bucket into a tool belt!

Made from water-resistant material, its innovative design features 30 deep set pockets for easy tool and accessory storage.



Chef dad will love this unique pepper mill by Maple Cottage Mills from fallen Ontario Trees.

## The chef

All the best kitchen's these days are about shopping local. Treat your father to a stylish and sustainable gift like these Maple Cottage Mills (\$65) by Cam Levers Designs.

These unique mills are made from fallen Ontario Wood and feature an adjustable ceramic CrushGrind® mechanism; with a 25-year guarantee!

Because they are adjustable, you can fill them with anything from peppercorns to rock salt, fennel or any other grind-able spice.



For the dad that runs, the new Under Armour HOVR Phantom gives a zero gravity feel.

## The runner

If your Dad likes to get out for a run the new Under Armour HOVR Phantom (\$160) are for him. These ultra-comfortable, ultra-stylish running shoes provide a 'zero gravity feel' to maintain energy return and help eliminate impact.

Designed with gender specific contours for extra protection & softer underfoot support, these incredible running shoes will enhance Dad's performance.

## Coffee-lover

Everyone knows dads love a good gadget, and who doesn't love coffee? The Nespresso Creatista Uno (\$549) is an easy to use, single serve espresso machine that allows you to make authentic cafe quality milk coffees at home. The Nespresso system combined with Breville advanced milk texturing technology will let Dad be his very own Barista.

## The time keeper

Whether dad is a suit and tie guy or he prefers comfy casual, elevate his look with a sleek and stylish watch, like the new Alliance Chronograph by Victorinox (\$650).

Immaculately styled and remarkably engineered, this high-performance piece will effortlessly guide him through his everyday adventures. It's sharp, distinctive and he can count on it for the long haul.

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## Giving back

What do you get for the Dad that has everything? A feel-good gift! Gifts of Hope by Plan Canada lets you buy items needed in developing country communities.

Help improve a life by buy-

ing a birth certificate for a child, mosquito nets, baby blankets, classroom supplies, and much more. Many of the gifts are matched by other donors, and you'll get a card for your father so he'll know what you've donated in his name. Get more info at [PlanCanada.ca/giftsof-hope](http://PlanCanada.ca/giftsof-hope)

## Quality time

At the end of the day, all dad really wants is just to spend time with you. Depending on where you live there is always some fun happening.

For Torontonians, a Brewery tour, the Yorkville Exotic Car Show or catch an indie movie at the Italian Contemporary Film Festival. And of course, the tried a true Hockey Hall of Fame (Admission \$19).

This year they're Celebrating 125 years of hockey's greatest treasure, the Stanley Cup. This limited-time tribute allows you hands-on-access to the first ever Stanley Cup!

— Natalie Deane is a lifestyle connoisseur who explores trends in home decor, travel and entertainment. Find her at [www.nataliedeane.com](http://www.nataliedeane.com), @nataliedeane on Instagram and @natalie\_deane on Twitter.