

howto...



# get SOMETHING for NOTHING

## ATTENTION SHOPPERS!

You can hit the mall without pulling out the plastic. Stores all across the nation are sweetening their deals with perks ranging from photography classes to back rubs.\* The best part: Many of them are free. Check out our list to get more from your next shopping trip.

If your favorite shop is not included, pick up the phone, says Bob Phibbs, a.k.a. the Retail Doctor, a retail consultant in Long Beach, California. "Typically, people who work at independent stores are eager to give instructions and offer advice because what they do is their passion." *Karen Bannan*

*\*The services listed may not be offered at all locations, so log on or call to get more information.*

### AutoZone

[www.autozone.com](http://www.autozone.com)  
800-288-6966

Loan-a-Tool, free loans of more than 60 specialty tools; testing of starters, alternators and batteries; complimentary battery charging.

### A.C. Moore

[www.acmoore.com/classes.asp](http://www.acmoore.com/classes.asp)

Some locations offer a variety of free and low-cost crafts classes such as knitting, scrapbooking, watercolor painting and cake decorating.

### Babies "R" Us

[www.babiesrus.com](http://www.babiesrus.com)

Parenting and grandparenting classes covering baby-proofing, feeding and child safety.

### Barnes & Noble

[www.bn.com](http://www.bn.com)

Most stores offer children's story time, author signings, book groups, how-to clinics and discussions. Also, find downloadable book club guides and online courses on the web site.

### Bass Pro Shops

[www.basspro.com](http://www.basspro.com)  
800-227-7776

Workshops on setting up a campsite, fly-fishing basics, Dutch oven cooking and nature photography.

### Borders Books & Music

[www.bordersstores.com](http://www.bordersstores.com)

Live music events, seminars and children's story time.

### Destination Maternity

[www.destinationmaternity.com](http://www.destinationmaternity.com)

Classes on Lamaze, prenatal yoga, scrapbooking and meditation; parenting and financial planning seminars.

### Home Depot

[www.homedepotclinics.com](http://www.homedepotclinics.com)  
800-553-3199

DIY classes offered especially for women, covering topics such as painting techniques, woodworking and deck-building.

### House of Bread

[www.houseofbread.com](http://www.houseofbread.com)  
800-545-5146

Some locations offer monthly hands-on bread-making seminars.

### Lowe's

[www.lowes.com](http://www.lowes.com)  
800-445-6937

An assortment of how-to clinics on subjects such as installing hardwood flooring, cleaning your garage and sealing concrete.

### Origins

[www.origins.com](http://www.origins.com)

Free 10-minute back rubs; skin treatments that vary each month.

### PETCO

[www.petco.com](http://www.petco.com)  
888-824-7257

Low-cost pet vaccination clinics.

### Staples

[www.staples.com](http://www.staples.com)

Small-business seminars and technology clinics that give advice on how to protect PCs from viruses and setting up a wireless network.

### The Vitamin Shoppe

[www.vitaminshoppe.com](http://www.vitaminshoppe.com)  
800-223-1216

In-store lending library stocked with recent health, fitness and nutrition books. Kiosks provide information about health-related topics such as diabetes, arthritis and colds.

### Whole Foods Market

[www.wholefoodsmarket.com](http://www.wholefoodsmarket.com)

Varies from store to store, but may include wine and cooking classes; cheese seminars; health and fitness programs such as healthy eating; and author signings.

### Zales

[www.zales.com](http://www.zales.com)  
800-311-5393

Complimentary jewelry inspection and cleaning for jewelry purchased at Zales.