

Stuff | Online bargain shopping

Surfing for the real deal

MacClatchy-Tribune Newspapers

ShopSmart, a Consumer Reports publication, has compiled a list of seven Web sites to help you skip the surfing and get to the real deals quickly. Their picks are:

Buzzillions.com

This user-review site has more than 3-million consumer entries on everything from electronics to shoes. ShopSmart likes that this site offers a broad and changing list of keywords to click on for searching. The magazine also suggests sorting your search by the lowest ratings first to get the scoop on what not to buy.

Ebates.com

After registering your e-mail address, you can shop at more than 900 retailers. After you check out, the site credits your account with a rebate, which can be as high as 26 percent, although most are in the 1 to 4 percent range. ShopSmart suggests clicking on the "Daily Double" tab, where rebates for one retailer are doubled each day.

Freshshipping.org

Choose a product category or a specific store to get the lowdown on free shipping offers. Most have minimum purchase amounts.

Heyisfree.net

This blog was started by Ryan Eubanks, who scours the Web daily to find free offers. You can search by product category, or check out a long list of other freebie sites.

Pricegrabber.com

There are more than two dozen price comparison engines, but ShopSmart liked this one for its ability to calculate the total cost of an item, including shipping and tax.

Retailmenot.com

Many sites gather online coupons, but weeding through expired or invalid codes takes time. ShopSmart says the codes on this site are reliable, and liked the comments section that lets users share their money-saving tips.

Shopittome.com

This site is for the true shopaholic. After choosing from a list of clothing, shoe and accessory brands, entering your sizes and registering your e-mail address, you'll



receiving a daily or weekly e-mail letter about special