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where can you get elf on a shelf

Published: September 3, 2026 | Index ID: #-

Where Can You Get Elf on a Shelf? A Complete Guide to Finding Your Holiday Elf

Every December, families across the country line up their holiday décor, hang lights, and prepare for the arrival of a tiny, mischievous visitor that has become a staple of Christmas tradition: the Elf on the Shelf. Whether you're a first time elf owner or a seasoned collector, you're probably asking yourself, "Where can you get Elf on a Shelf?" This guide will walk you through the best places to find your elf, from online marketplaces to brick and mortar stores, and give you tips on choosing the right one for your family.

What Is Elf on the Shelf?

Elf on the Shelf is a holiday tradition that began in 2005 when Carol Aebersold and her daughter, Chanda Bell, published a children's book titled *"The Elf on the Shelf: A Christmas Tradition."* The story introduces a scout elf that travels from the North Pole to help Santa keep track of children's behavior. Each night the elf returns to a new spot in the house, and the next morning, kids look for it. The elf's presence turns the holiday into a playful, interactive experience.

Beyond the story, the elf has become a popular toy and collectible. Families often use it as a fun way to teach holiday values, encourage good behavior, and add a touch of whimsy to their Christmas décor.

Why Everyone Loves Elf on the Shelf

- Interactive Tradition – Kids love the daily elf hunt, which turns a simple toy into a game.
- Decorative Appeal – The elf's bright red hat and playful pose add a festive touch to any room.
- Collectibility – Over the years, many special edition elves have been released, making the toy a sought after collector's item.
- Versatility – The elf can be used as a holiday gift, a decorative piece, or a teaching tool.

Where to Find Elf on a Shelf: Online vs. In Store

When you ask, "Where can you get Elf on a Shelf?" the answer varies based on your shopping preferences, budget, and desired edition. Below we break down the most popular options for finding your elf.

1. Online Retailers

Online shopping offers convenience, a wide selection, and often competitive prices. Here's a quick rundown of the top platforms.

Amazon is the go to destination for most holiday shoppers. You'll find:

- Standard edition elves
- Special edition releases (e.g., "Elf on a Shelf: The Movie" version)
- Elf accessories and gift sets
- Customer reviews to help you choose

Amazon's Prime shipping and return policies make it a hassle free choice.

Walmart's online store offers:

- Standard and special edition elves
- Bundle deals with other holiday décor
- Free in store pickup options

Check the website for exclusive Walmart editions that aren't available elsewhere.

Target's website features a curated selection of elves, often with unique packaging and themed accessories. Their "Target Circle" program also offers loyalty points for holiday purchases.

Buying directly from the official site guarantees authenticity. The official store offers:

- All standard and special edition releases
- Exclusive bundles (e.g., "Elf on a Shelf: The Complete Collection")
- Gift wrapping and holiday-themed packaging

2. Brick and Mortar Stores

If you prefer seeing the product in person before buying, these physical locations are worth a visit.

Most Walmart locations have a dedicated holiday section. Look for:

- Standard elves displayed near the toy aisle
- Special edition releases in the holiday gift section
- Seasonal displays that showcase the elf in various scenes

Target's holiday décor section typically features elves in a festive setting. They often have exclusive Target editions available only in-store.

Independent toy shops frequently carry the elf, especially during peak holiday season. Shopping locally supports small businesses and often allows you to ask questions about special editions or restock dates.

3. Specialty and Handmade Options

For families looking for something unique, consider:

- Custom Elf Portraits – Many artists offer personalized elf portraits, turning the elf into a family photo.
- Hand made elf figurines – Etsy sellers create unique, handcrafted elves with different colors and accessories.
- Upcycled or recycled elf décor – Eco friendly options are gaining popularity.

4. Second hand and Vintage Finds

Elf on the Shelf has been around for over a decade, so you can find:

- Used elves on eBay or Facebook Marketplace
- Vintage editions that are no longer in production
- Collector's editions sold by specialty toy shops

When buying second hand, inspect the product for damage and confirm authenticity.

5. Seasonal Sales and Deal Hunting

Timing your purchase can save you money. Here are some tips:

- Early Bird Deals – Many retailers offer discounts on holiday décor as early as October.
- Black Friday & Cyber Monday – Look for bundle offers or discounted special editions.
- Post Holiday Sales – After Christmas, many stores slash prices to clear inventory.
- Price Match Guarantees – If you find a lower price elsewhere, some retailers will match it.

6. Choosing the Right Elf for Your Family

There are several factors to consider when selecting an elf:

Standard vs. Special Edition

- Standard elves are the classic version, perfect for first time buyers.
- Special editions often come with unique accessories or storylines.

Most elves are about 4 inches tall, but larger or smaller versions exist. Consider the space where you'll display the elf.

Most elves are made from plastic or vinyl. If you have pets or children who might chew, a sturdier material might be preferable.

Some elves come in themed sets, like "Elf on a Shelf: The Movie" or "Elf on a Shelf: Holiday Edition." Choose one that aligns with your family's interests.

7. Caring for Your Elf

Keep your elf looking fresh throughout the holiday season with these simple tips:

- Store it in a dry place to prevent mold or damage.
- Avoid direct sunlight, which can fade colors.
- Clean with a soft, damp cloth if it gets dusty.
- Handle with care when moving it between scenes.

8. Frequently Asked Questions

Many wholesalers offer bulk discounts. Contact the official Elf on a Shelf distributor or large toy wholesalers for bulk orders.

Yes, several artists and Etsy sellers create custom elves featuring family photos or unique designs.

While traditionally aimed at children, the elf has become a popular novelty gift for adults who enjoy holiday humor and décor.

Amazon and the official Elf on a Shelf website ship internationally. Check shipping policies for your country.

Conclusion

From online giants like Amazon to local toy shops, the options for finding your Elf on the Shelf are plentiful. Whether you're looking for the classic version, a special edition, or a custom creation, there's an elf out there that will fit your holiday vision. Keep an eye on seasonal sales, compare prices, and consider the right edition for your family's style. With the right elf in hand, you're ready to start a new holiday tradition that brings joy, laughter, and a touch of magic to your home. Happy elf hunting and merry Christmas!

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