

GIFT-WRAPPING MADE EASY

Tips for Resourceful Gift Wrapping This Holiday Season

Want to be a little more resourceful this holiday season and spend less money and time on wrapping those presents for friends and family? Here are a few tips from former winners of the Scotch Brand Most Gifted Wrapper Contest on how to use items from around the home to make packages look picture perfect this holiday season:

Necessary Supplies

There are some essential supplies that you must have on-hand for gift-wrapping:

- Have a sharp pair of scissors, such as Scotch Precision Scissors, for cutting fabrics and other materials.
- The Scotch Pop-up Tape Dispenser makes gift-wrapping easier because you wear the tape dispenser on your wrist and it dispenses pre-cut strips of tape. Your tape won't get lost under the gift-wrap paper anymore.

Wrapping Paper Alternatives

- Everyone has used newspaper or the comics instead of wrapping paper, but put a different spin on it and theme the gift based on the recipients personality, hobbies or interests. For example, use a road map for the travel buff or the classified ads for a recent college graduate who is looking for a job. Another great option is to use several sheets of someone's favorite magazine and tape them together.
- Reach for some leftover shelf paper or wallpaper. It's not only nice looking but a sturdy substitute for wrapping paper for those oversized gifts that are hard to wrap.
- Brown paper bags, foil, kraft or parchment paper — as well as large dishtowels — from the kitchen are good alternatives and can look really nice too.
- Check out the linen closet. A decorative holiday towel or large beach towel will do in a pinch, or scraps of fabric leftover from your most recent sewing project. You could even use a tablecloth or other table linens to hide that special gift.
- If you can't find any of these items around the house, disguise a gift in a non-traditional container. Put perfume or socks in an empty paper towel roll. Use an empty coffee can or cereal box for neck ties, books, video games and other medium-sized gifts.

Ribbon Alternatives

- Embellish a package with small, useful items that relate to the gift. For example, tie a whisk on a set of mixing bowls or a magnifying glass on an Atlas.
- Decorate a wrapped gift with Christmas ornaments or the front of a beautiful holiday card.
- Use items from nature that you find in your yard or at the park like colorful leaves, greenery, berries or pinecones.
- Tie up a package with a colorful scarf or a handsome belt.

Alternatives to gift tags

- You can make your own gift tags by using the back of old business cards. Cut pictures or words from magazines, and paste them on the gift card to make it festive. Voila! Your own customized gift tag.
- Recycle old greeting cards, pasting the fronts on a fold-over of construction paper or other heavy paper.
- If you have a permanent marker on hand, even a small Christmas ornament can become a personalized gift tag.