

## **THAT'S A WRAP**

### **How to Plow Through That Pile of Presents With Ease and Creativity**

A recent survey found that one in four Americans wrap their holiday gifts in the 24 hours prior to the gift-giving occasion. So how can you plow through that pile of presents at the eleventh hour, yet still have them look as if they were wrapped by a pro?

For tips on how to “wrap up” your holiday gifts with ease, creativity and flair, be sure to read the “Handy Gift Wrapping Tips and Techniques” booklet from 3M, the makers of Scotch Brand Tape. To obtain a copy of this free tips booklet, send a postcard to: Scotch Brand Tape Service Center, 2982 North Cleveland Avenue, Roseville, MN 55113. Or, send an e-mail with your name and mailing address to: [tips@3mservice.montagenet.com](mailto:tips@3mservice.montagenet.com). Please allow two to three weeks for delivery.

Ellen Timberlake, crowned “America’s Most Gifted Wrapper” for 2000 in Scotch Brand tape’s annual gift-wrapping contest, offers these additional tips for when time is of the essence:

- Before you start wrapping, make sure you have all of the necessary supplies. Good scissors are a must! And, the Scotch pop-up tape strip dispenser saves a lot of time. Since the dispenser is worn on the wrist, you avoid having to search for the roll of tape amid a myriad of presents and wrapping paper.
- Box gifts as you purchase them. Then, temporarily label the box with the recipient’s name, using a scrap of paper or a Post-it note. This will not only save time on “wrapping day,” but a box sealed with a small piece of tape keeps the curious at bay!
- No box and the stores are closed? Raid your closets or even the pantry. The element of surprise takes on a whole new meaning when you wrap a gift in an unusual box. Imagine the surprise on your loved one’s face, for example, when he or she sees the nice sweater you purchased in a cereal box!
- Curling ribbon is a great time-saving alternative to handmade bows. It’s relatively inexpensive, so you can curl dozens of strips of it to decorate a present and make it look festive.
- Out of wrapping paper? Just take a look around the house for inspiration. Many everyday items can be used to creatively wrap a gift in a pinch. Colorful pieces of fabric (think old curtains!), newspaper, tissue paper and even aluminum foil are good alternatives to gift wrap. Just use your imagination and be creative!