

Wonderful Gift Wrap Ideas

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Wrapping a gift so that it looks exciting and enticing can be the more expensive than the gift. Everyone loves to receive a beautiful present, with lovely wrapping paper and gorgeous decorations, but if you are the giver it can be difficult to come up with cheap ways of wrapping.

Gift Boxes

Cereal boxes make great gift boxes. Simply spray them with coloured paint (gold, silver, red or dark green for Christmas) and use them as gift boxes. You can also use cracker boxes, soap powder boxes etc. If you take a lot of medication, you can save the small boxes your tablets come in to use for small gifts such as jewelry.

Budget Wrap

With about 50 or more gifts that we have to buy each year, I decided to make my own wrapping paper & cards to cut down on costs. I make beautiful wrap out of waxed paper and pretty flowers and leaves from my garden. Lay a towel on your table, roll out as much waxed paper as you can manage (waxed side up) and sprinkle with petals, leaves, and small flowers for ladies, different shaped leaves for men and small cute cutouts for kids. Lay a top sheet of waxed paper (waxed side down) on top and then press with a warm iron. You'll be amazed at the effect.

I also save old magazines and calendars etc, (you can find some beauties at op shops for under 50c) and I cut



out all of my favourite pictures. I save bits of coloured card, paper, ribbons, thread that I come across and with a glue stick, scissors, texas and a bit of imagination and fun, I create a special card for someone. I use the tinier pictures for gift tags. Brown paper looks very effective if it is tied up with a bit of raffia. Get the kids involved, you will be encouraging not only their creativity but their recycling skills also. I have worked out that I save around \$200 a year, by doing this.

PS: I use the environmentally safe waxed paper, although it is a few cents more, it looks nicer and it will last you forever. *Contributed by Erin, Yangebup*

Cheaper Gift Bags

I can't bear spending up to \$7.50 for a gift bag. So I buy the inexpensive (usually \$1) plain brown bags with handles. Then I take brown wrapping paper and cut it into A4 sized pieces to fit in my computer printer. There are so many neat clip art decorations that you can print onto the paper - including To & From information (thereby saving on a card). Cut with decorative scissors, then simply glue it onto the bag. Add a little raffia, buttons, bows or whatever and you have a great gift bag.

Wrapping Christmas Gifts

Instead of wrapping Christmas gifts, especially for kids, make big Santa sacks from Christmas fabric and ribbon. Personalize with the child's name. Santa then puts the presents in the sack and ties it shut. These can be re-used every year, saving money and time and creating a lasting memory.

No Sticky Tape Gift Wrapping

Christmas is coming and with it, presents and wrapping. Instead of using tape to seal your gift wrap, keep a glue stick handy for sealing packages. Costs less, dries fast and gives your gifts that professional no-tape look.

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