

DIY Holiday Gift Wrapping

The holidays are a favourite time of year for many - filled with joy, laughter, quality time with family, and (of course) gifts. The holidays are also one of the worst times of year for waste in Canada.

Did you know that the average Canadian will produce 25% more garbage around the holidays than during the rest of the year, thanks to wrapping paper, cards, food waste, Christmas trees, and more? (1)

Canada is estimated to use 540,000 tonnes of wrapping paper each festive season (2). The global carbon footprint of wrapping is significant, even with some of it making its way to the recycling plant. Some cities will allow for plain paper gift wrap to be recycled, while others don't allow it at all! (3)

So, what can be done about all the wrapping paper waste? Are there other options that could help out the planet while also saving you and your household some money at the most expensive time of year?



Option 1: Newspaper



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Description

Most households receive some kind of newspaper or flyer in the mail at least once a week, and what usually happens to it? Into the garbage! (or recycling, hopefully). But what if some of those pages could be repurposed?

Materials:

- Newspaper
- Scissors
- Tape
- A gift in need of wrapping

Instructions:



Step 1: Gather your materials and set them out at your "wrapping station" (a spot with lots of space and a flat surface)

Step 2: Set your gift on top of a piece of newspaper.



Step 3: Wrap the gift like you would with wrapping paper.

TIP: If you've never wrapped a gift before, check out [this video](#).

Step 4: Find pieces of newspaper that have bright colours or pretty designs.

HINT: Retail flyers are the best for this.



Step 5: Cut out shapes or images (like snowmen, Christmas trees, stars, and hearts) from the selected pieces of paper.

Step 6: Tape your cut-outs to the wrapped gift for a unique and personalized wrapping paper!



Option 2: Tissue Box



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Description

Tissues are a must-have for many households, especially around the holidays (cold and flu season!). What happens when you take the last tissue from the box? Into the garbage (or recycling, hopefully). But what if that box could be repurposed?

Materials:

- Empty tissue box
- Tissue box top (optional)
- Scissors
- Tape
- A gift in need of wrapping

NOTE: This will only work if the gift can fit inside the tissue box.

Instructions:



Step 1: Gather your materials and set them out at your "wrapping station" (a spot with lots of space and a flat surface)



Step 2: Cut the plastic lining from the hole in the top of the box.



Step 3: Place your gift inside the box.

TIP: If the gift is very small, you can fill the box with something soft (like tissues or newspaper) to prevent the gift from moving around too much.



Step 4: If you have the original cardboard top from the tissue box, place that back over the opening. If not you can use another material to cover the opening.

Step 5: Tape the top or other material to seal the opening.

TIP: This space is perfect for writing the recipient's name or a message!



Option 3: Old Clothing



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Description:

Have you ever had a piece of clothing that ended up with a stain or rip? You don't want to wear it anymore, but can't sell it or donate it in that condition. What happens to those items? Into the garbage! But what if you could repurpose it?

Materials:

- An old article of clothing
- Scissors
- A gift in need of wrapping

NOTE: Shirts work best for this due to their shape.

Instructions:



Step 1: Gather your materials and set them out at your "wrapping station" (a spot with lots of space and a flat surface)

Step 2: Set your gift on top of shirt that has been cut open at the seam.

TIP: The fabric should be at least 2-3 times the size of the gift.



Step 3: Fold the fabric over the gift, covering it.

Step 4: Fold the other sides up and over the gift.

TIP: If you've never wrapped a gift before, check out [this video](#).



Step 5: Cut a long piece of fabric from whatever is leftover from your clothing.

TIP: This piece should be at least 4x the width of your gift.

Step 6: Wrap the piece of fabric tightly around your gift and tie into a bow on top.

