



How to make gift wrapping easier

While holiday shoppers are often enthusiastic about finding great gifts for their loved ones, many are decidedly less excited about wrapping those gifts. Many holiday shoppers spend hours wrapping gifts each year, and as gift lists grow, so does the amount of time needed to get all of those presents wrapped, hidden, packaged and/or shipped. Shoppers can employ the following strategies to make the process go much more smoothly and to reduce gift wrap-related anxiety.

- Relearn the basics. Some people may think they know how to wrap gifts, only to realize it's harder than it looks once the paper, scissors and Scotch tape comes out. Relearn the basics by viewing online tutorials prior to wrapping gifts so the lessons learned remain fresh in your mind. Learn how to wrap standard clothing gift boxes and recognize that such boxes can often be used to house oddly-shaped items.
- Wrap as you buy. Instead of getting bogged down with wrapping all in one evening, wrap presents as you purchase them. This ensures that you don't leave every-

thing for the last minute and reduces the likelihood that curious kids or inquisitive spouses discover gifts before the big day.

- Work on a hard surface. It may be tempting to lay everything out on your bed and wrap gifts while you're binge-watching the latest Netflix series. But hard surfaces make the best places to wrap gifts. This ensures there won't be any wrinkles in the paper and that you won't lose supplies in the bed-spread.
- Rely on double-sided tape. For that professional look, invest in some double-sized tape so you will not have any unsightly tape lines.
- Keep all of your supplies together. Store wrapping paper, scissors, tags, tape, ribbons, and whatever else you may need to wrap gifts in one convenient location. This cuts down on time wasted hunting for supplies around the house.
- Draw on plain gift boxes. Make your own "wrapped gifts" by drawing or stenciling on plain gift boxes if you're short on time.
- Identify recipients by gift wrap. Designate one gift wrap for each person

on your shopping list. This way you can easily distinguish one person's gifts from another's. This can keep things more organized when sorting and visiting with friends and relatives later on.

- Keep gift bags on hand. Gift bags work in a pinch and make it easy to conceal gifts that are hard to wrap. Curious loved ones can easily peak inside gift bags, so be sure to wrap gifts in tissue paper before placing them in the bags.
- Less is usually more. Do not use too much paper when wrapping; otherwise, you will be left with bulky, sloppy folds. Before trimming the gift wrap from the roll, check that it overlaps the ends of the box by just a couple of inches. A sturdy paper will help you achieve crisper folds and prevent tears when wrapping. For the simplest wrapping design, try kraft paper (brown mailing paper), which can be dressed up with ribbons, cutouts or stamps.

The process of wrapping holiday gifts can go more smoothly when applying some time-tested tips and tricks.

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