



Green Gift Wraps

Growing up we didn't always have money for gift wrap so we got creative. Now it is more important to save resources and cut down on all that Post-Christmas trash overload— Let's give the garbage collector a holiday and start the new year with a sustainable tradition of recycling wrappings!

- **Magazines and newspapers:** the Sunday comics are easy to fold and wrap around big boxes. Old yoga journals, Organic Gardening or Vegetarian Times have lots of pictures to decorate or wrap up a package
- **Maps:** With GPS available, paper maps are not as necessary. Wrapping gifts with maps of your travels is a great way to share your adventures.
- **Cereal and produce boxes:** Stop by Driftless any Wed or Friday and have your pick of large or small boxes you can use for gifts. Go in your pantry and grab a cereal box that works well for small, flat objects.
- **Shredded paper filler:** Junk mail never looked as fine as it does cushioning a fragile vase or ceramic mug. Don't have a shredder? Maybe your neighbor or workplace will let you take some of their shreds.
- **Reusable Gift Bags:** Driftless Market has a large, insulated black bag with our logo, perfect for a gift of cheese and fruit. We also have a nice selection of handmade bags that are perfect to fill with treats from Driftless Market.

Driftless Market

95 W. Main Street Platteville, WI • 608-348-2696

www.driftlessmarket.com



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Here are a few more ideas either for this year or to keep in mind. Get a big plastic storage box to save your wrapping treasures. I have a box full of old bows and ribbons and even a few recycled sheets of wrapping paper.

- **Re-Purposed Gift Bags:** The bags that new sheets come in, burlap sacks from rice, or the plastic ones from citrus - find a new use for what otherwise might be thrown away.
- **Recycled Aluminum:** Got any leftover sheets of aluminum stashed in a drawer? Makes a shiny gift and can then be recycled again.
- **Bubble wrap:** We all get it and don't know what to do with it.
- **Scraps of Fabric:** Perfect wrapping for a quilter. Or, if you sew, make your own personalized gift bags.
- **Toppers:** Got any old yarn or ribbon. What's in your mom's sewing kit? Seam binding and buttons. Cinnamon sticks from the kitchen, Pinecones or dried flower pods from the yard. You don't have to be an artist to cover a paper bag with stencils or stamps or let your children draw Christmas trees and gingerbread people.

Now here's a wrapping project for a small gift from a big tease: Get a small but noticeable box or bag for your gift. Fill a big box with shredded junk mail and lay your gift in the middle of the box. Wrap the bigger box in bubble wrap. I have enough patience for this. One could go on with boxes in boxes and various fillings.

The wrapping may be more fun than the gift!

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