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Eco-Friendly Holiday Gift Wrap

Wrap holiday gifts with eco-friendly materials for a present even the planet will love!

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What joy that pile of gifts under the tree brings us – both young and old. It’s fun to dream about what’s hiding beneath the beautiful packaging, isn’t it? But within that packaging are all kinds of eco-wastes that make gift wrapping a bit of a planetary nightmare. Follow us as we go through the naughty and nice lists for better, eco gift wrapping.

Naughty Giftwrap List



Perhaps one of the biggest contributors to Christmas waste is the ubiquitous disposable paper giftwrap, the unrecyclable plastic ribbon, and the tissue paper. So to start off, let’s list the things that aren’t generally accepted for recycling (hint: avoid these as much as possible):

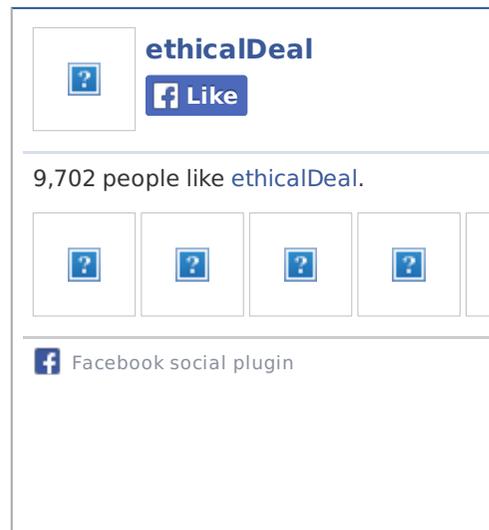
- Gift bags with metallic parts
- Tissue paper
- Packing peanuts
- Bubble wrap
- Cellophane
- Ribbon

Put these on your naughty Christmas Day giftwrap list and avoid buying or using them whenever possible.

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Nice Gift Wrapping List

There are plenty of eco-friendly gift wrapping solutions, so instead of using those on the naughty list above, opt for these trash-reducing ideas:

- **Beautiful reusables:** Create a set of reusable gift bags, boxes, and embellishments made out of fabric, sturdy cardboard, and cloth ribbons. Make your set something you love to use with colours you adore and styles that please, and then carefully store everything away until next year. Bonus benefit: You'll be amazed at just how quick it is to wrap gifts with reusables!
- **Use compostables:** Create unique gift wrapping made of pine boughs, twigs, berries, and other organic items that can be composted at the end of the season.
- **Reuse non-reusables:** If you're given a gift wrapped in something from the naughty list, be sure to remove it carefully so that you can save and reuse it later. Upcycle holiday cards into beautiful giftwrap tags, mini boxes, and cards.
- **Recycle what you can:** Just because it's busy over the holidays doesn't mean you should starve your recycle bin. If reuse isn't possible, organize waste items into groups and recycle what you can. Don't forget the holiday cards!
- **Save packaging materials:** Keep the packing peanuts, bubble wrap, and boxes for sending a package or your next move.



Of course, there are all kinds of things around your home you can likely just repurpose as giftwrap that can be beautiful and thrifty. Need a little

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inspiration for the kinds of things you could reuse as creative, beautiful giftwrap? Check out a few of these eco-friendly concepts:

- Baby blankets
- Scarves
- Watering can (filled with gardening gifts)
- Kitchen pot (filled with kitchen gifts)
- Tool box (filled with tools)
- Storage baskets
- Scraps of fabric
- Beautiful linens
- Reused giftwrap
- Newsprint or artful magazines
- Maps
- Handsome socks (new ones double as gifts!)
- Old ties, stitched together
- Sweaters
- Cookie tins



Photocredit: Flickr / LizMarie_AK

It's perhaps more important at Christmas than any other time of year to be eco-conscious, and try to reduce personal waste as much as possible. If you've got other really creative ways to make gift wrapping both beautiful and eco-friendly, share them with our community!

About the Author:

Maryruth has been seeking the keys to environmental justice – both at home and at work – for over a decade. With interests that range from green living to

green business, sustainable building designs to organic gardening practices, ecosystem restoration to environmental health, Maryruth has been exploring and writing about earth-matters for most of her life. Of special interest is the subject of ecopsychology and the role the natural world plays in the long-term health and well-being of humanity. You can learn more about Maryruth's work by [visiting her site](#).

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