



## STORY FILING TEMPLATE June 2014

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**WRITER BYLINE:** Nichelle Suzanne

**TITLE TAG:** 6 Inexpensive and Ingenious Gift Wrap Ideas

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**PAGE TITLE/HEADLINE:** Clever Alternatives to Wrapping Paper

**DESCRIPTION/SUBHEAD:** The best holiday gift wrap doesn't have to come on a roll. These wrapping paper alternatives are more eco-friendly and won't break your budget but they'll still look great for your next gift exchange.

### **BODY COPY:**

At the holidays, spectacular wrapping paper is almost as irresistible as the Radio City Christmas Spectacular, if we do say so ourselves. But beautiful or not, when the gifts have all been opened, gift-wrap typically goes in the trash. Not very friendly to the planet or your pocketbook!

Wrapping paper alternatives like fabric, newspaper comics and brown paper bags are classics but if you're bored with every fabric-wrapping technique in your [Furoshiki](#) arsenal, help is on the way. Here are some pretty spectacular ideas that are a little outside the gift box.

### **Food Storage Containers**

"Throwaway" containers in the food storage aisle at your local grocery store are looking good these days. Many of your favorite brands sport snowflakes, snowmen, and other seasonal symbols around the holidays. Add a printable gift tag and some colorful ribbon and these reusable containers can box more than just tasty treats or a batch of our favorite no-bake energy bites (though, nosh is always good too).

### **Cereal boxes**

Save your cereal boxes from the recycling bin and use the cardboard to make gift boxes instead. The outside is cute and colorful for a present but the inner brown can be stamped or bedazzled too. There are lots of great [gift box templates](#) available to print online. Or, use this [template maker](#) to create boxes of almost any shape in just the right size.

### **Toilet paper tubes**

Small gifts or stocking stuffers can fit neatly into toilet paper tubes. Just fold the ends inward, add stickers and a little ribbon or yarn, and voila! These make awesome treat boxes for an [advent/holiday countdown calendar](#), too.

### **Reuseable shopping bags**

Nothing is easier than gift bag wrapping. Shopping totes come in lots of attractive colors and themes for the same price or less than paper gift bags but can be used over and over. It's like two gifts in one.

### **Outdated maps and calendar pages**

Navigational systems have practically made maps obsolete but the large folded sheets of paper are interesting and colorful without additional decoration. The photographs from old calendars or magazines make gorgeous gift-wrap too.

### **Potato-chip bags**

The shiny foil on the inside of empty snack bags would add sparkle to any present. Just slit the bag along its seam, wash it with soap and water, and lay it out to air dry before you use it. Speaking of foil, you can also sculpt aluminum foil from your kitchen pantry into flowers, bows, or abstract shapes to craft unique gift-toppers.

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**SUGGESTED SOCIAL POST:** There's more way than one way to wrap a present! These ideas will kick up your creativity but not the cost when wrapping gifts this holiday season.