

Eco News for December

As Christmas approaches and you are inevitably beginning to think about wrapping presents for friends and family, can we invite you to take up a challenge...could you wrap all your presents using only re-usable materials? By this we mean nothing that needs to end up in either the rubbish or recycling bin, and that can be kept and used again on another occasion!

Here are some of my top tips from experience of trying over the last few years:

- re-usable gift bags or boxes are a great resource that can be stored carefully and used year after year
- create your own family set of Japanese 'Furoshiki' wraps
<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Furoshiki>
- if you want to use paper, use brown paper or a better quality wrapping paper (that doesn't rip so easily) & try and avoid using tape which can damage the paper—use string or hessian (for natural looks) or ribbon (for elegance) instead! You could make your own T-shirt yarn, which has the benefit of being a bit stretchy
<https://www.instructables.com/How-to-Make-T-Shirt-Yarn-From-an-Old-Tee/>

You could even make this a full family challenge, measuring up what ends up in the bin to see who wins (the present giver with the least material ending up in the bin)!