

A guide to affordable gift giving



Gift Wrapping

We have a large family and go through a large amount of wrapping paper for gifts throughout the year, which just gets thrown away. So we all bought gift bags (with little handles) instead, and use over and over again. You can find them for as little as \$1.50 in Woolworths and Red Dot, which is cheaper than wrapping paper anyway!

Contributed by Lisa Crummack

If your children love painting, get them to make some artwork to use as gift wrapping when dry. It makes a special gift, costs little to make and grandparents love them!

Contributed by Jenny Spears

Cards

A group of us save all the birthday and Christmas cards we can get and have a card making day once a month. We buy dozens of blank cards and envelopes from a specialist shop for 50 - 70 cents each. We have a really enjoyable day recycling the old cards to make our own unique new ones.

Contributed by Judy James

For novel Australian themed gift tags, dry some gum leaves (the longer, the better) underneath a book. Write your greeting in gold, silver or red pen, punch a hole in the leaves and thread some gold elastic through and around the gift.

Contributed by Di Harris

Children

If your kids are going to heaps of parties, buy a 250g block of chocolate for a great gift under \$5.00. The birthday child will love it! - *Michael Greene*

For children aged four to 13, a torch makes a great gift. They come in many varieties at various prices from supermarkets and electrical shops. It makes younger children feel grown up and is fun for games at night! - *Penny Smithe*

A cheap photo album and some postage stamps makes a lovely present; the child could then begin collecting stamps - after all, everyone gets mail! - *Julie Myers*

I begin buying gifts for my eight grandchildren early in the year, when I see clothes and items on sale. I make craft boxes for them, buying a few things at a time from \$2.00 shops. I also download crafts and activities for them from the Internet, so they have fun ideas for the whole year. It's a good cheap present, all you need is time and printer ink.

Contributed by Annette Drew

Teenagers

For teenage girls, make a cosmetic or bath basket. Shampoo, trial samples, scrunchies and hair ties, scented soaps - all those girly things they love! Teenage boys are hard to buy for but gifts such as: sketch book with pencils / charcoal, sports equipment (rugby, tennis balls and so on), phone recharge card, pack of cards with card game manual, 'cool' t-shirts or vouchers for surf gear, music, books, or K Mart go down well!

Christmas

I made small deluxe hampers, which contained a mini bottle of sparkling wine, two plastic champagne glasses, mixed nuts, chocolates and homemade shortbread. My gold wire baskets were \$2.00, the wine \$3.50 and once I had divided up the goodies for each basket, the overall cost was just \$10 per hamper.

Contributed by Sonia Trainor

We make movie bags, which always go down well. I buy a book of five movie tickets, split them up and add them to a movie bag full of popcorn, lollies, jaffas and drinks. An economical gift to be enjoyed!

Contributed by Narelle Simpson

Flowers

Instead of expensive potted plants and flowers, buy or make a lovely floral card, and place inside a packet of matching seeds for just a few dollars from Big W. Write 'Instead of a bunch of roses, which wilt in days, I have bought you the seeds so you can have your own flowers near to you, all year round'. The recipient will love the personal touch.

Contributed by Lexie Walker

General

Living in the country can make it difficult to get to the shops to buy gifts. We grow our own vegetables to save money and I came upon a novel gift idea. I bag up my excess vegetables and attach a recipe with all the ingredients needed. For example, I have given a Zucchini Soup bag, with a couple of zucchini, an onion and stock cubes. The recipients love the idea!

Contributed by Sue Griggs

Buy a cheap cane tray or basket and fill with some nicely packaged teabags (e.g. Lipton Herbal infusions) of all different flavours. You can add a couple of tea cups, or coffee mugs for a coffee basket.

Contributed by Jenenne Francis

My gift to a friend may have cost just \$0.55c, but it means far more to her! I bought a refillable display book and filled it with all my favourite secret recipes, typed up on the computer. The recipient, a mother of three on a budget, was delighted with her tasty new budget recipes!

Contributed by Kath Jolly

A picnic backpack filled with picnic essentials from the supermarket makes a great gift for around \$25. Include a rug if budget allows it!

Contributed by Susan Hsaio

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