

MAGIC REINDEER FOOD

Make your own 'Magic Reindeer Food' as a lovely low cost gift idea for little ones. All you need is a small plastic or paper bag and mix up some plain rolled oats, coconut and some tinsel, glitter or brightly coloured paper cut up in small pieces. Fill up the bag and add this special poem to go with it:

Sprinkle on your lawn at night,
The moon will make it sparkle bright,
When Santa's Reindeer fly and roam,
This will guide them to your home.

A perfect take-home gift for Christmas parties that is enchanting for little ones and is guaranteed to help Santa and his reindeer on Christmas Eve!
Contributed by: Emily Mauger

PUDDINGS IN A TEACUP

Christmas puddings are great to give as Christmas presents to loved ones. I make a few and wrap them in calico with a ribbon and they love getting them as a personal gift. I also adapt the idea for couples by mixing the recipe and instead of cooking in a cloth/basin I grease teacups and 3/4 fill them with the mixture, cover with alfoil and place in a frying pan with water and cook with the lid on until done. They cook quicker than a large pudding and are perfect sizes for individual serves. If I am giving to a couple I wrap them in cellophane with a lovely gold ribbon and none of the pudding is wasted or not eaten.
Contributed by: Jalan

MEMORY JAR: GIFT OF MEMORIES

Christmas time can mean having to get creative to stay within your budget. One present that will be treasured for a lifetime is a gift of memories.

Find an attractive jar and cut different coloured paper into small, note-sized pieces. Write a single memory you have about the particular person on each piece and place it in the jar. Continue doing this until the jar is full. Add a nice ribbon around the jar and you have a wonderful jar of memories to give. A lasting gift that costs little, yet means a lot!
Contributed by: Debbie Gillon

This is a free tip sheet, print it out to use and share with your friends, relatives, students. For more tips like these go to SimpleSavings.com.au

CANDY CANE BATH SALTS

Try making these for a perfect Christmas gift which is both low cost and useful!

Ingredients:
3 cups Epsom salts
3 tsp sweet almond oil
9 drops peppermint essential oil
1 drop of red food colouring (more if you like)
1 drop of green food colouring

To decorate:
Several jars with screw lids or cork seals.
Red, green and white Christmas ribbon.
Several gift tags shaped like candy canes OR several small candy canes.

Instructions:
You will need three mixing bowls. Put a teaspoon of almond oil and three drops of peppermint oil into each of the bowls. Add one drop of red food colouring to the first bowl, add one drop of green to the second and leave the third bowl plain. Mix each bowl well and be careful not to mix the colours. Put one cup of Epsom salts into each bowl. Then stir well. This will leave you with a bowl of green, a bowl of red and a bowl of white scented salts. Let sit, covered for a few hours.

To create the candy cane effect, make layers of each colour - a layer of red, a layer of green, a layer of white - over and over until you fill the jar. Decorate with matching ribbon and tag or real candy cane. These make great inexpensive presents for teachers, work mates, family - they always appreciate the effort and love something different. They look bright and cheerful, add a festive touch to the bathroom, smell great and best of all, cost next to nothing to make!
Contributed by: Kim

