



Get Organized: Be a Wrap Star

PHOTOGRAPH BY LISA SHIN, STYLING BY HOUSE STYLE, GIFT WRAPPING KIT FROM CONTAINER STORE



That's a Wrap: Pick a clear container that suits your storage space: one that fits on a pantry shelf or hangs in a utility closet. Avoid cardboard ones, which fall apart easily. ● Paper-clip the top and bottom edges of paper to the rolls so the ends don't fray. ● Save a bundle by using a rubber stamp to personalize blank gift cards. ● Keep packing materials, such as confetti from your cosmetic purchases, to substitute for tissue paper as filler.

If you've ever packaged a \$100 present in Sunday comics, or used masking tape because the clear stuff was MIA, then you know the perils of wrapping on the run. Organizer Ann Sullivan ends the can't-find-the-scissors scavenger hunt with a gift-wrapping kit that sends chaos packing.

Assess

Where do you wrap most presents? On the kitchen table? On the bed? Find a spot close to that location to stash a gift-wrapping kit. Housing tools and materials in one place means you'll not only know what you do and don't have, you'll also keep costly paper and ribbon crisp.

Sort

Round up all your supplies from the far-flung corners of the house and sift through everything. Toss any paper, bags, gift tags or bows that have seen better days. "Discreet recycling is fine, but a been-through-the-mill gift bag is easy to spot," says Sullivan.

Activate

Set up two kits. Use one for all-occasion wrapping (birthdays, anniversaries, showers) and another for Christmas or Hanukkah. Be sure each contains the staples: scissors, clear tape, tags and pens. Then store the holiday gift-wrapping kit with other holiday decorations.

Preserve

Once every few months, take an inventory of your all-occasion kit and put items in low supply on your shopping list. Replenish your holiday kit during postseason sales. Then relish the time you'll save by keeping gift wrapping systematic and panic-free.

—*Edited by Teresa Palagano*