

DAILYWRAP

HOW TO WRAP AN AWKWARDLY SHAPED GIFT

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This is the question I get asked more than any other.

When wrapping an unusually shaped gift, you need to decide whether you simply want to cover or protect it (and it will be fairly obvious what the gift is) or whether you want to disguise the gift (so the recipient isn't sure what they're getting till they open it up).

Luckily, my eight wrapping tips for awkward shapes will achieve both!

1 FOR A HUGE GIFT - TAKE A PHOTO

If you are gifting an extremely large item such as a bike, a giant stuffed toy, a portable basketball hoop and stand, a tuba or a large lamp you need to decide whether to wrap it at all. Wrapping a huge gift takes a lot of paper and unless the gift is boxed, runs the risk of looking untidy on a large scale.

I take a picture of the item and pop that picture in a small box along with a related gift and details on where the main gift is hidden. For a new bike, I take a photo or print out the stock photo and wrap that along with bike socks and instructions (cryptic or otherwise) as to where the new bike is hiding.

2 FOR LARGE AND BULKY GIFTS - USE A DRAWSTRING BAG

I love placing bulky items in a drawstring bag - a fabric calico bag, patterned laundry bag or cool swimming bag. There are heaps of reasonably priced drawstring bags (even ham bags!!) around or you could very easily sew your own. I wrap the gift in layers of recycled or packing paper to protect and disguise and then pop it in the drawstring bag. Then I tie in some embellishments. The drawstring bag can be reused for heaps of purposes so it's a second gift to boot!!!



3 FOR ANY SHAPED GIFT - BOX IT UP

Well this might seem obvious but to make your life easier, box it up! The trick here is to save up boxes from any source as you receive them (provided they are not too tattered) because newly purchased gift boxes can get expensive. I often glue paper to the repurposed box as this will hide what ever is printed on the outside. And if I am being extra fancy schmanzy I will also line the inside!

4 FOR LONG THIN AWKWARD SHAPED GIFTS - USE A MAILER TUBE

The old fashioned cylindrical mailer or postal tube makes a fabulous container for long thin items - particularly kitchen items like whisks, spatulas and tongs - or long thin toys like water guns and light sabers.

Mailers are also excellent for lots of little unusually shaped items like make up or miniature cars or stationery items. I paste festive paper directly onto the cardboard of the mailer - no need to rewrap - leaving the plastic ends unwrapped. Sooooo much easier than wrapping the whole cylinder. This is also an excellent way to repurpose the mailer tubes you receive and feel you should keep but never seem to find a use for.

5 FOR SKINNY AWKWARD GIFTS - MAKE A CARDBOARD SANDWICH

If an item is relatively skinny but quite an odd shape like a cheese board with handles, or a toy with parts protruding from the packaging, I create a cardboard sandwich. I place one rectangle of cardboard beneath the gift and another piece of the same dimensions on top thereby creating a rectangular prism - albeit one without sides. This makes the wrapping so much easier AND it's easier to pop a ribbon on!





6 FOR FLOPPY GIFTS - USE A CARDBOARD BASE

One piece of cardboard is also a fantastic backing for floppy fabric items. If you fold a piece of clothing and place it on cardboard you will create a solid base to wrap and ribbon around.

And a tip on folding....always fold the heavy seams and ridge like collars to the inside so the smoother side of the fabric is on top – this will give an even surface over which to put your paper.

7 FOR GIFTS WITH EDGES AND SHARP POINTS - WRAP AND ROLL

For shapes that are all angles and jutting out bits, I use the wrap and roll. It's great for mid size ceramic shapes, baubles or figurines. First wrap the gift in layers of protective (preferably recycled) paper to take the edges off. Then place on a rectangle of paper that goes all the way around the gift and is three times the width. Bring the sides to the centre, fold roll.

8 FOR TEENY WEENY LITTLE GIFTS - GO THE GEMSTONE

For teeny weeny little gifts, I say go the gemstone! There are quite a few nets or outline patterns for gemstones which you can download, print onto card, then fold and construct. The completed gemstones can be further embellished by painting or glittering (with glitter of the biodegradable kind). This is definitely straying from wrapping into crafting but it works mighty well for smaller items and sparkly gemstones really do look lovely hanging from the branches of the Christmas tree.

