

DAILYWRAP

HOW TO ORGANISE AND STORE YOUR WRAPPING MATERIALS

BY VIVIENNE ANTHON



1 WRAPPING PAPER

- ◇ I store larger lengths of paper in a roll vertically and stand the rolls upright in a lovely basket. You can use dedicated hang up wrapping paper holders or suit packs – but these are limited to rolls of a certain length and you can't use them for large heavy rolls of the paper.
- ◇ If paper is stored on rolls vertically, you do have to prevent it from unrolling and wrinkling. Don't use twine or rubber bands as these bite into the paper and potentially rip it. Hold the rolls of paper in place with something that is quite broad – like the inside roll of paper towel. Cut the roll all the way down lengthways and place it on the roll like a cuff – voila! If you are going to tie something around the rolls – make this very wide ribbon that won't "bite in". This will hold the paper in place and look lovely if there are a number of rolls in a basket or on display.
- ◇ I store remnants flat between two larger pieces of sturdy cardboard joined at the edge only – like a giant cardboard folder. Pieces of a large cardboard box are perfect. I place the cardboard folder on a shelf or under a bed when I don't need it.
- ◇ I store my papers by colour which can be used as a canvas for almost any theme. I recommend having fewer but better quality papers on hand. This saves space and clutter and forms the "pantry staples" from which a wide range of special occasion or seasonal wraps can be created. Always have a roll of brown kraft paper and a roll of plain white paper on hand which can be embellished to create unlimited looks. I add in one darker colour, one pattern and one floral which I change every season. Be strategic about this and resist the sale section unless the wrap on sale fits into this framework.
- ◇ I generally avoid season specific paper as it can't be used for other gift wraps – but like many people I make an exception for the holiday season. I store it out of the way with other decorations and then it's a treat to bring out the wrapping and decorations – a festive reveal!



- ◇ I never store paper near direct sunlight – particularly pinks and reds as these fade easily. I store paper in cool dry places as paper and humidity do not mix – and humidity causes wrinkles and the mega curl. A garage might seem like a good place but probably isn't.

2 ACCESSORIES

- ◇ Ribbons are best stored on a roll. Store a number of rolls on a piece or dowel or hang them on a piece of string. Secure the rolls with washi tape – the paper tape that is not overly sticky and will not leave a residue. I never pin or stick with regular sticky tape. I keep empty ribbon rolls so that if I buy specialist ribbon by the metre or piece, I can place it on a roll to store perfectly.
- ◇ Bows must be stored so they don't get squashed. I store statement or premade bows between layers of recycled tissue in shoe boxes.
- ◇ Tags are generally small and can get lost or dog eared. I store tags in small concertina file – it keeps them together and allows filing by type.
- ◇ Tissue paper is so delicate that it does not roll well. I keep tissue flat in opened out large sheets to diminish any fold marks that are the result of packaging. I deploy the cardboard folder concept specifically for tissue paper.

3 TOOLS

- ◇ The main issue here is keeping your wrapping tools and accessories such as tapes, glue, rulers, twine, and hole punchers in the one place and ensuring they do not migrate into general household use – after which you'll never find them when you need them!
- ◇ I always have two pairs of wrapping scissors. One for paper and one for ribbon). I use fluoro masking tape on the handles so that it is obvious if anyone else is using them. I met a lady who padlocked her gift wrapping scissors so they would stay sharp and could not be used by others. I thought this was a bit over the top but it actually does work!

This is an excerpt from an article Viv was asked to write for Martha Stewart living.

[View it here.](#)

