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Less waste for a more meaningful gifting season

The gifting season is very special for everyone. The good food, the smell of sweet spices, being reunited with your loved ones and spending quality time with them. It is also at this time of the year that we want to show gratitude and spoil friends and family with gifts. And this is how we end up with a pile of gifts that we never use and that will remain sitting on a shelf. This month, as we all are happily getting prepared to celebrate Christmas and the New Year, let us give you some ideas on how to make more meaningful gifts and reduce the amount of waste produced.

Let's start with the iconic wrapping paper. Colorful and satisfying every taste, wrapping paper is usually one of the iconic elements of Christmas when we think of the beautifully wrapped gifts under the illuminated tree. But it also creates a tremendous waste of paper that was probably new and will probably never be used again. This wrapping paper can be easily replaced by things that you either already have in your house, or that you can reuse every year:

- **Fabric:** Fabric is great to wrap gifts for so many reasons. First of all, it will not tear when your niece or grandson eagerly open their gifts. Second, after it has been used, just wash it if needed, and it is ready to go for another round! Third, yes you can buy these fabrics...but before you do, take a look

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in your wardrobes. We all have old shirts, dresses or other clothes that we do not wear anymore for variety of reasons. Instead of getting rid of them, cut them up! You will have fabric and ribbons to make beautiful gift wrappings.

- **Newspaper and magazines:** Wait! Were you about to throw your old magazines and newspapers in the recycling? Well, think twice! Using newspapers and magazines' pages as wrapping paper can make unique wrappings and will give a second life to the paper.
- **Tins and jars:** Salvage your empty jars and tins, because with a little bit of love they can become creative and endlessly reusable recipients for your gifts! Remember, Reuse, Reduce, Recycle, instead of buying more and more.



The second solutions to make more meaningful and useful gifts is by following one of these two rules:

- Make your gifts **consumable**: That is, gifts that will not end up sitting on a shelf and cluttering a house. The ideas are endless, and we recommend you dive through our previous newsletters for more ideas! You can bake special cookies that will fit wonderfully in carefully decorated jar; you can find a kit to make homemade beeswax wrappings to say goodbye to plastic film; you can create homemade and healthy soaps for family and friends... The possibilities are only limited by the scope of your imagination!



- Think about what people **need**: making a gift for the sake of giving something is a real waste of time and resources when you can gather with other friends and family members to think about what that person has been needing or wanting lately. That way, instead of making many small gifts, everyone can participate in giving an amount of money, time, or other resources to make a single yet more meaningful gift. Is it time away in a spa? Or a new oven? These things become much easier and possible when several people participate!

Happy preparations for the holidays!