

December is upon us and I hope you all take a minute to consider today's message!

I love Christmas time! Everything is festive and everybody is cheery! Many wonderful meals with friends & family and many gift exchanges. And that is all good stuff, but let's stop just for a minute and consider a few things before we dive into all these festivities...

We order a lot of things online and receive all those boxes and packing stuff. We go shopping and come home with many bags. Then we wrap all those items with shiny paper, ribbons and bows. And with all the new things we received as gifts, our old stuff is thrown out.

We gather with friends and family and everybody brings their favorite dish to share and all that extra food because it's a party!

Fun, fun, fun!

But wait... do you remember all the food that ended up in the trash? Did you ever notice all that overloaded garbage & recycle bin? Now imagine that each family may have created that much trash. A whole city. A county. A state, etc... you get the idea....

And you are probably only thinking of the actual trash (packaging and that stuff), but believe it or not, most of the trash is food. For one thing, a waste in a world that is already struggling to figure out ways to keep feeding everybody. And worse, in some landfills, food doesn't decompose.

With that in mind, let's maybe take a step back and celebrate our holidays with a more conscious mindset. To give you some ideas, here is a link to Toward Zero Waste website with some tips:

<https://towardzerowaste.org/zero-waste-holiday-tips/winterholidays/#>

Below is a list of some gift-wrapping ideas:

Brown Kraft bags & tissue paper – can be recycled or composted or even better, reused!

Wrap a gift with packing paper, newspaper, etc (even crumpled paper – gives a cool different look)

Use paper tape or none

Tie with natural twine or cotton

Make adornments with natural wood beads, aluminum wire or any other metal, dried oranges, cranberries, popcorn, pinecones, leaves from firs, pine, cedar, eucalyptus, etc

Add pictures that gift recipient can keep – they make cute adornments and add a personal touch

Stamps that you can reuse

Fabric:

Make cloth bags and tie with a cloth ribbon

Try Furoshiki! Wrapping gifts with fabric! Many examples available on YouTube and online.

Use good quality gift boxes, gift bags, ribbons that can be reused year after year.

Here are some of my own creations:



I used some left-over Christmas fabric for these.

And since I'm in the store, I added things I found around here! A cookie with the gingerbread fabric; and a pinecone & air plant for the wine bottle! 😊

The air plant can be attached temporarily with some sticky putty.



Using some packing paper (which came with a package I received), I created this. White heavier tissue paper which was crumpled, but gave a cool look; and a cutout from the cushion wrap paper to go around. Cotton twine to hold the cushion wrap paper and a twig to give an accent. I did use some tape for the tissue paper, but I hear that you can get paper tape, which is more environmentally friendly.



Add an accent to any gift with a Sola Wood flower! They are eco friendly & sustainable. Made from a marshy plant, they can last a lifetime!



And you can easily create many fun gifts using different sizes of Kraft gift bags or boxes, just like these which I use for the store!

Enjoy the Holidays!