



# TRASH TALK

WITH *Tiffany Pratt*

How to make

## DIY Recycled Gift Wrap



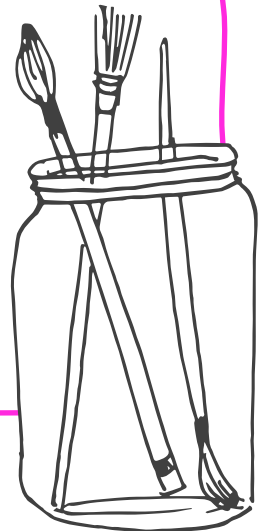
Follow Tiffany's tips for transforming items from your recycling bin into creative gift wrap ideas!

Be prepared to experiment with your garbage and create something uniquely special that can make any gift pop.

**Let's get started.**

### What you will need:

- Food colouring or liquid watercolour
- News print paper
- Coffee Filters
- Baking cups
- Dye dropper
- Yarn or thick string
- Wire or pipe cleaners
- Glass jar, fabrics, bubble wrap (optional)



It's like creating little works of art each time you give.

— Tiffany Pratt

## Step 1: Set up your work station



### Side Note:

One of the best things you can do to reduce your footprint is to learn when to use your blue, green and black bins.

For example, certain paper products like coffee filters, napkins, and tea bags should always go into the compost green bin.

You're ready to recycle, let's make it count!

Once you've gathered your materials, it's time to set up your work station. Begin by covering your table with newspaper to protect the surface from damages.

Take inventory of the items you have lying around or in your recycling bin. Additional items like bubble wrap, corrugated cardboard, or cellulose paper can be dyed and incorporated.



### Hot tip from Tiff:

Begin by wrapping your parcel in a base layer of newspaper. The toppers you are about to make will become the perfect decoration.

## Step 2: Dye your coffee filters and baking cups

Spread out your coffee filters and use a dropper to splash colour across them in your own special way. Use any colours you wish.

This technique will lend itself to the classic messy paint splatter effect. Keep in mind that the viscosity of the dye will cause it to bleed, drip, and blend with other colours across the coffee filter. Be sure to turn them over throughout the process to achieve a layered coverage.

## FUN FACT

**Glass can be recycled endlessly.**

Call it the material with an infinite shelf life; always recycle clean glass and keep it out of landfills permanently.

1



## Tiffany recommends

You can lay your coffee filters on top of the news print you're going to dye for an even more organic paper pattern.



## Hot tip from Tiff:

Save time and create variation in your designs by dipping a stack of baking cups into the dye colours for uniform coloured edges.

2



3



I love giving gifts. And even more, I love finding things that I have in my recycling bin to adorn a gift, so I don't have to spend any money on gift wrapping.

— Tiffany Pratt

## Step 3: Dye your news print

1





## FUN FACT

**Rinse out all food jars, cans, and bottles before tossing them in the recycling bin.**

If an item contains residue, it won't be properly recycled, plus, it'll keep your bin clean!

Lay your newsprint out flat, and using the dropper again, begin to create an organic pattern just like you did in step 2. Flip, and layer multiple sheets so the colour can bleed through.

2



## Tiffany recommends

Embrace the natural crinkles in the paper, don't try to flatten them.

3



When you're done, place some scrap newspaper around the top and bottom of your stack, and crumple it all into a ball to complete the colour leeching process. Flatten and hang to dry along with your filters and cups.

## Step 4: Adorn your gift

Begin by winding several layers of the yarn or thick string around your newspaper-wrapped parcel and tying it elegantly in place.

1



I love love love the way coffee filters look en masse—dyed up as a collection or a bouquet on top of a gift.

—Tiffany Pratt

2



Grab a pipe cleaner or some wire and get ready to assemble your flowers. Place a bead on the end, or create a twist to act as a stopper for the flower centre.

Starting with the smaller baking cups, poke the layers through the wire with the opening facing the stopper end. Continue until you're satisfied with the size of your flower.

3



**Hot tip from Tiff:**

When layering the larger coffee filters, poke the holes slightly off centre so that the flower takes on a more full and interesting shape!

**voilà!**



Finally, thread the wire through the yarn at the top of the parcel until the flower is situated in a good position. Wrap the remaining length of wire tightly around the flower's centre to finish it off.

**Tiffany recommends**

After the flower is secure, leave a tail of wire unwrapped and attach a baking cup to the end as a gift label.

Save!

**Save** your soiled paper. Once paper becomes stained with food or paint, it can no longer be recycled. Transform it into gift wrap, scrapbooking material, or repurpose it in any number of creative ways so it doesn't go to waste!

## Step 5: Think outside the box



### Side Note:

Projects like this become more fun when you make a habit of saving scrap materials. It can be really satisfying to give something a new life. One day, you will find a use for that random tiny scrap of fabric!

The flowers you've assembled can be repurposed in many ways, and combined with different materials.

Cut scraps of fabric and layer them with your coffee filters over a clear glass jar for a personalized gift idea! Secure the layers with an elastic band, and follow the same technique with your wire or pipe cleaner to thread the flower through the elastic, and finish off the style.

### Tiffany recommends

Use a light dusting of spray paint to give some of your design elements that extra flair. A dusting of colour on bits of paper, folded cardboard, or train of bubble wrap can go a long way!

Fill a jar full of beautiful chocolates or tea towels as a really fun gift. People love to be able to see what's inside of something.

— Tiffany Pratt



Fin!



## This is how Tiffany Pratt makes recycled gift wrap!

Going the extra mile to create your own gift wrapping makes every gift you give so much more personal, and you are upcycling in the process. Double whammy!

Check out [GarbageDay.com](https://www.garbage-day.com) and sign-up or download the app for daily reminders, like when to put out your garbage, recycling, compost, and more! [Get notified weekly](#) to always know which collection day it is.



Waste reminder  
service available at  
[GarbageDay.com](https://www.garbage-day.com)



**GarbageDay**



Check out GarbageDay's waste reminder service at [GarbageDay.com](https://www.garbage-day.com).

Tiffany is a big fan of the ["Which Bin"](#) feature on the mobile app (available if you live in Toronto). It's essential for her because it tells users which item belongs to its proper bin. It's a total game-changer for those who have no idea where certain items belong.



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