



Green Gifts on a Budget: 3 Easy Tips

By [Reena De Asis](#) | Tuesday April 10, 2012 @ 10:01am PST

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Being savvy and ecofriendly never goes out of style. Below are 3 easy tips on how to make and give green gifts on a budget.

Give a Magazine a Second Life

If you have a collection of magazines piled up at home or work, you can either donate them to a local homeless shelter or get crafty. All you need is a pair of scissors and some folders to store your cutouts in. If you have an old photo album with sticky pages, you can display the cutouts in a more organized manner. Cut out images and words or phrases that are funny, inspiring or simply memorable. Once you have a generous collection, you can use them to create a home made card, collage or memory box. You can even send a playful ransom note to your beloved and offer to meet outdoors for a light picnic.

Dual Purpose Homemade Gift

Who doesn't love receiving a sentimental homemade gift? A fun gift idea is a memory box. To start, you'll need a shoebox or medium sized gift box. Then, gather some items to decorate the box such as cutout words and images from magazines; photos, ribbons, fabric scraps, color paper or any of your favorite arts and craft materials. Once you've finished decorating your box, collect objects that remind you of your gift recipient. Once you have found special photos or other mementos that will fit into your box, place them inside. Next, reminisce and write down fond memories on small pieces of paper, fold them and place them inside. Make sure to write the things you are thankful for. Memory boxes can be reused as a keepsake to store jewelry, writing or art supplies, etc.

Creative Reusable Wrapping Options

Stand out and be ecofriendly by using alternative modes of gift-wrap. Options include the Sunday comics or maps, free with your AAA membership. For a final touch, add an old ribbon or yarn to wrap around the gift. For gift tags, reuse old cards and envelopes. If you have craft scissors that have different patterns, this adds a little zest to your gift tag. Punch a hole on the card and string it through a piece of string or yarn. Perhaps add a button instead of a ribbon to accentuate the gift using an environmentally friendly adhesive. Lastly, if you plan to give a scarf or a reusable bag as a gift, you can always use them as your actual gift-wrap.

For green crafting and recycling ideas, try [Crafting a Green World](#), [FaveCrafts](#) or [All Free Crafts.com](#).

Put some heart and energy in creating a gift, for "May no gift be too small to give, nor too simple to receive, which is wrapped in thoughtfulness and tied with love," L.O. Baird.

Reena De Asis is a savvy community connector, practicing overt methods of waging good in the world. Her work has been published on the Women's Conference, the Huffington Post, CSRwire Talkback, Forbes and Maria Shriver's website. She is a believer in sustainable living and being a conscious consumer. LOHAS, live music and volunteering = music to her ears.

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