

Think outside the box

Christmas is creeping closer and closer, and chances are you haven't finished your Christmas shopping yet. Don't worry! I'm sure you're not alone.

When it comes to food gifts, it's time to start thinking outside the box, literally. There are tons of household items you can use to doll up and dish out your holiday treats on Christmas.

This week I experimented with a Pringles can, some wrapping paper and a bright ribbon. Adorable—if I do say so myself—and perfect for holding Christmas cookies! You can use the same concept with a cylinder tube, cling wrap and some twisty ties.



Here are some other do-it-yourself ideas:

—Line the inside of an old jewelry or shoe box with scrapbook paper, pair it with brightly colored tissue paper and finish it off with some ribbon.

I'm Just Cookin'

Written by Darci Tomky

—Paint an old bucket or flower pot, add a lining and fill it full with larger food items or accessories.



—Cut a square hole on the side of a brown paper bag and attach cellophane to create a window for your cute treats to peek out.

—Forget the wrapping paper and transform one of the gift items into the wrap job. For instance, fill a mug, mixing bowl or oven mitt with your other gifts, add a bow and you're good to go!

—Bundle baked goods in pretty dish towels and tie with twine, thread or ribbon.

—Fill the bottom of a vase with sugar and use it to stack tall treats.

—Re-gift a pretty tin or basket you received last year.

—Cut scrapbook paper to the size of a paper CD envelope and slide it and a cookie inside so they can be seen through the window of the envelope. Attach a ribbon or other adornment.

—Thread ribbon through holes punched around the outside of a disposable plate.

—Wash out those old mason jars and spruce them up with fabric scraps, buttons and ribbon.

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