THE HOLIDAYS ARE ALMOST HERE!

THE TREE IS UP, AND PRESENTS HAVE BEEN PURCHASED....

Now it is time to wrap them.

Did you know that the TTU Recycle Center does NOT accept wrapping paper for recycling?

This is because the dyes used in giftwrap seldom “come out in the wash” (a step in the recycling process), and the non-paper additives such as glitter, metal and plastics are not recyclable. And ribbons just tangle up the machinery!

When you think about it, wrapping paper makes little sense from an economic standpoint – all that time and money to purchase and wrap for a limited useful life! But as Chip Colwell says in an article for the website Sapiens.org, “That’s how wrapping paper works: It frames an object as a gift.”

Here are some alternative wraps to make your gift stand out.

Reuse something that you might have thrown away cereal box, comics, potato chip bags, newspaper, a glass jar (paint the jar if you want to keep your gift a secret), torn sheet music, an end of life sweater, old maps, or magazines.

Make a bow with strips of paper – details in the link.

Wrap your gift in something that is a gift in itself such as a handkerchief, a scarf, a cloth napkin, an apron, a throw, a pillowcase, or a sheet. Or for a variation of a gift within a gift, use a clay pot and saucer (acts as a lid to hide the present inside) for a gardener’s gift, a new cooking pot to contain spices and kitchen gadgets for newlyweds, a bucket with tools for a new homeowner, or a laundry hamper to hide diapers for an expectant mom.
If you would really like to make an impression, try fabric wrap such as BOBO Wrapping Scarf. (This website has how to videos!)

For those of you with a sewing machine, here are great instruction for making a fabric gift bag from a material scrap.

To decorate presents wrapped with paper grocery bags, or kraft paper use duct tape, yarn, stamps, stickers, or melted crayons. For a clean simple look, cut letters or shapes from newspapers to label your package.

(Photo from article on homedit.com that has quite a few ideas.)

If none of the ideas above inspire you, consider using wrapping paper made from: recycled cotton fabric remnants, recycled paper, or repurposed newsprint.

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World Market
Green Field Paper Company
Wrappily

Even if you skip using conventional wrapping paper for only ONE gift, you have made an effort to -

REDUCE, REUSE, RECYCLE!