

# Christmas ALL WRAPPED UP!

Whether it's socks (again) or diamonds (we wish), pressies are even more exciting if they're beautifully wrapped. Try Tara Dennis' stylish ideas

TOP TIP  
Box awkward-shaped gifts whenever you can - they'll be much easier to wrap.





## Deck your halls

Add some Christmas cheer to your home with Tara's tips:

- Freshen up your front door by hanging a wreath, replacing your door mat and sweeping the step.
- Don't forget to scrub up your patio area, your barbecue and add a few bright cushions to your furniture.
- Hang sparkly Christmas lights on a wall in the garden for a soft glow when you're entertaining guests outside.
- Mix it up for Christmas this year – try fresh, new colours for your decorations, table settings and tree.
- A quick idea is to fill tall glass vases with coloured baubles and place on tables and sideboards.
- If you're lucky enough to have an open fire place, fill it with logs and red baubles and hang stockings over the mantle.
- Real, fake, driftwood or twig, it doesn't matter which tree you choose, by simply having one your home will feel festive.



**N**ice paper, neat folds and some pretty ribbon can turn an ordinary gift into something extraordinary.

So start with lovely paper as well as tape, embellishments and tags and you'll be all set to start wrapping.

- While red and white is a classic Christmas combo, for something different add polka dots and you have a fresh, new twist.
- For a stylish and sophisticated touch, choose your gift wrap and ribbon to coordinate with your tree trimmings.
- If your papers are all different, use the same colour ribbon for a cohesive look.
- Kids paintings and drawings make adorable and very personal gift wrap.
- Embroidery thread, fabric or string offer a simple (and often cheaper) alternative to ribbon.

## HOW TO WRAP THE PERFECT GIFT

1 For neat folds, don't use too much paper. Measure a piece to fit only halfway up each side of your gift and just a little longer than all the way around. A giftwrap cutter like this makes quick work of slicing through paper.



2 Create a neat fold along one edge of the paper, wrap around the gift and secure with tape. Fold each of the ends starting at the sides. Press inwards, then fold the lower flap of paper up and the top flap down. Tape in place. Repeat for other side.



3 Wrap with a ribbon.



4 Attach a tag with the gift recipient's name.

