

## **No-Waste-Holiday Gift Suggestions**

Prepared by Anoka County Integrated Waste Management

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There is no need to spend a fortune on gifts this year. Consider giving gifts that conserve resources and money this year. Avoid the trap of "How much should I spend?"

Try to avoid over-packaged, resource-consuming gifts, disposable products, gadgets with limited use, and anything in aerosol containers.

Some of the most treasured gifts are those we make ourselves, or simply the gift of our time. Check out a few of our suggestions below and have a resourceful holiday!

### **Some No-Waste Gift Ideas**

Re-gift something you never used

A live plant or bulbs

Gift cards for restaurants

A reusable lunch bag and coffee cup

Give an experience: museum, park, zoo

A cloth shopping bag

Cloth napkins and rings

Give a garden! Seeds, gloves, tools, etc.

Help someone recycle: give a can crusher

Pine cone fire starters

Durable wooden toys

Solar watch or calculator

Membership to a museum or non-profit organization

Reusable food storage containers

A programmable thermostat control

A compost bin

Durable hand tools

Unbleached 100% cotton dish towels/sheets

Reusable gift basket with non-toxic household cleaners

Energy-saving compact fluorescent bulbs or light fixture

A water-saving showerhead

Theater or sporting event tickets

Create a family recipe book

Quilts and comforters

A bat roosting box (bats eat mosquitoes)

Bird feeder and seed

A subscription to an environmental magazine

Stationery made from recycled paper

A car safety kit packed into a coffee can

Shut-off timer for watering the lawn

Charitable donations

Book exchange

Homemade cookies or other treats

A variety of cards and book of stamps

All the ingredients for a recipe in a jar

A list of family birthdays in a book or on a calendar.

A gift of your time to help someone, make a coupon or book of 10 coupons (See the list of ideas on the next page)

Make a donation to someone's favorite cause

### **No-Waste Wrap**

Reuse packaging and bows

Brown bag art! Stamp with a design

Make gift bags from fabric or paper

Wrap in a scarf or towel

Decorate plain paper with last years' cards.

Make name tags with last years' cards

Old posters or maps

## **No Waste Gift Coupons**

There will be no packaging to dispose, no gifts to wrap, no guessing if the gift will fit, match or even be liked!

Simply use a coupon as a gift for a friend, family member or co-worker. We have provided coupons for you to personalize. Give one or put a few together to make a coupon book for a gift that can keep on giving all year long.

### **Suggestions to give an Adult**

Baby-sitting  
Night off from dish duty  
Foot massage  
Breakfast in bed  
Wash windows  
Clean a room or the whole house  
Vacuum a room or the whole house  
Scrub the kitchen floor  
Clean out a closet or cupboard  
Shovel the sidewalk or driveway  
Mow the lawn  
Weed a garden  
Run an errand or two  
Provide transportation (doctor, airport etc)  
Grocery shopping  
Take the kids to games or practice  
Walk the dog (for a day, week, or month)  
Make a home cooked meal  
Organize an outing (zoo, museum or park)  
Take pictures at a family gathering and put into an album  
Painting (a room or two)  
Wash and/or iron laundry  
Pet sit  
Record interviews of relatives or friends  
Wash the car  
Monthly lunch date  
Check the tire pressure on vehicles, bikes...  
Collect family recipes and make into a book  
Mend clothing  
Bake treats  
Fix broken toys or other items  
Give a couple of hours to help declutter

Offer to help clean out a closet, basement or garage

### **Suggestions to give a Child**

A sleepover with movies and popcorn  
Take fishing or sightseeing  
Trip to the zoo, museum or park  
Reading or story time  
Ice skating or sledding  
One-on-one time with Mom or Dad  
One-on-one time with Grandma or Grandpa

### **Suggestions for a Child to give an Adult**

Feed the birds, dog or cat  
(once, for a week, month or ?)  
Watch a younger brother or sister  
Commit to extra chores  
(housecleaning, shoveling, lawn mowing)  
Clean their room  
Put together a scrap book or family tree  
Hugs and kisses  
Clean out the interior of the family vehicle  
Give the dog a bath  
Help rake leaves or shovel snow  
Do the dishes for a day, week or ?

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Giving the gift of \_\_\_\_\_

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