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Holiday Guide 2004

is to personalize wrapping paper. Get in touch with the “inner child” of e folks on your gift list. No matter what the recipients age, look for whimsical paper. If they have a favorite cartoon character, chances are you’ll be able to find that character on wrapping paper.

Another trendy choice is metallic wrapping paper in bold colors. For those of you who are crafty, you can create your own paper. One way to do this is to use the inside of a paper grocery bag and decorate it with interesting paint stamps to create colorful designs on the paper. If you have someone who is wild about flowers, use a rose stamper and cover the paper with roses in their favorite color to create one-of-a-kind wrapping paper.



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Once your gifts have been wrapped, the next thing you need to do is decide where to put them. Some people put gifts under the tree and into stockings the minute everything is wrapped. However, if you have small children in the family, they know Santa doesn’t arrive with gifts until Christmas Eve. So, you have to decide what to do about those special packages in the meantime. Some people will go so far as to enlist the help of neighbors, other family members and friends who don’t have curious children. They will hide the wrapped gifts in other people’s homes until the kids are all tucked in on Christmas Eve. Other choice hiding places include the trunk of your car, attic/storage areas, or keeping small gifts in your desk/storage area at work (if you have room).

Unexpected Guests

One of the great holiday stressors is the unexpected guest. We have all had it happen. Cousin Pete arrives with his brand-new girlfriend, Sue. You didn’t even know she existed until Pete showed up with her on your doorstep for the family holiday celebration. After dinner, there may be the traditional gift exchange, during which time everyone except Sue will get a gift. What



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