

Dear Recycle Lady



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Dear Recycle Lady,

Last week you mention alternatives to holiday wrapping paper. I have some more ideas. Newspaper is recyclable and can be used to wrap gifts, especially the comics. Other alternatives are a decorative tin box, a reusable shopping bag, a cloth drawstring bag, a tablecloth, gift bags, or a decorative basket. Some people fill a food container with homemade cookies or other food, and the recipient will refill the container before returning it.  
Creative Santa

**Dear Creative Santa,**

**Thanks for your many ideas for alternatives to using non-recyclable wrapping paper to wrap Christmas gifts. They are all definitely better for the environment than ordinary wrapping paper. Good to hear from you again. Also, there are now commercially available alternatives to gift wrap. These alternative include wrapping paper with recycled content, biodegradable wrapping paper, or hemp-blend paper.**

Dear Recycle Lady,

When my newspapers were delivered just before Black Friday, there were so many advertisements that bundled together there was more of them than newspaper. The ads were a mixture of slicks and colored newsprint. However, there were some that I didn't know whether they were slicks or newsprint. How can I tell the difference whether to put the ads in with newspapers or as slicks in with magazines? Reader

**Dear Reader,**

**I understand your confusion. Some newspaper ads appear to be slicks but are actually good quality color print on newsprint. Try wetting a small corner of an ad that you definitely know is newsprint and the corner of an ad that you definitely know is a slick. When you complete this test, the corner of the ad that is a slick will still look like a slick. The corner of the ad that looks like a slick, but is actually newsprint, will look and feel like a newspaper, not a slick.**

Dear Recycle Lady,

Kitty litter, and other products, come in boxes that have plastic handles. Can these boxes be sent to the Recycling Center without removing the plastic handle? Love My Cats

**Dear Love My Cats,**

**Yes, all clean cardboard boxes can be sent to the Recycling Center. They go in the bin with cardboard. The plastic handles do not need to be removed.**

**Have questions about recycling, or interesting information about recycling? Send questions or requests to [recyclelady@greenbrier-swa.com](mailto:recyclelady@greenbrier-swa.com). Dear Recycle Lady is sponsored jointly by the Greenbrier Recycling Center and Greenworks Recycling.**