



Eco-Friendly Gifts



Going green for the holidays is easy. Locally made consumable gifts with recyclable packaging, gift certificates and floral arrangements, are a few good choices.

Learn how to cut cost and find designer style for your holiday floral arrangements...

Flowers add a festive tone to any occasion.

Flowers and article by Lorraine Alexander.

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- Think eco-friendly and use unusual vessels and vases found in second hand shops. This will give your arrangements fun signature style. Rethink and reuse... very green!
- Place arrangements in front of a mirror, visually doubling the size. Fewer products, less cost.
- Add textures and vary greenery by shopping for filler in your own back yard. Greens can be costly. Select greens from your yard first, or go to a Christmas tree lot for the leftovers.
- Soak evergreens for 24 hours in a tub of water before placing in your arrangement. This technique doubles the life of your greens.
- Think outside of the box. Use your creativity with color and texture, instead of opting to stay traditional. You might be surprised with the results.
- Give a gift of flowers to brighten someone's holidays. Invite friends and have pre-holiday floral get together in your home to create arrangements. This will be loads of fun! You can agree to deliver the arrangements to a hospital or charity for the elderly.
- Adding unusual bows, ribbons or ornaments creates visual interest. Be eco-friendly and save bows and ornaments. You will be surprised how they can be reused over and over.
- Enjoy your holiday arrangements for a few days, and then share them with a home for the elderly, or a hospital. Share the beauty with someone else, "twice as nice".
- Next fall, have some fun with some friends and sign up for a floral class at the local Junior College. You will have beautiful arrangements in your home through the holidays, while you explore your creativity!