

Hazel: So, hello, my name is Hazel and this is my daughter Amber.

Amber: Hello.

Hazel: So we are about to do some Christmas crafts.

Let's take a look at gif wrapping with repurposed packaging, old Christmas decorations and repurposed ribbon.

Top tip: Repurpose where you can or consider second-hand materials from a charity shop!

Right then, so we are just going to demonstrate, Amber's going to demonstrate wrapping a present using this lovely, uh, gift wrap here. Uh, so this is something that we received some tights in.

And obviously as you can see, the tights came in some really funky, uh, packaging. So I wanted to repurpose it for gift wrapping. So over to you, Amber.

Amber: Okay, so I've got this perfume bottle

Hazel: Which is empty. You would probably be wrapping one that's full.

Amber: So I'm gonna put it in and it fits in the bottom, which is good.

Hazel: If you want to hold that up to the camera.

Amber: I placed the perfume bottle, (gosh words today) into the bottom of the packaging. Mm-hmm. And then what I'm gonna do is smoot that around the edge, as you can see, and then I roll it.

Hazel: Hold that up now. And now it's little bit like a cracker,

Amber: Nice little cracker. But as you can see, it's all rolled up.

Hazel and Amber: So here we have some, Some ribbon. Some ribbon.

Amber: It's a nice short but not too short piece of ribbon. So I'm gonna wrap it around the circumference of the cylinder and then hopefully, should I wrap it around this way?

Hazel: Yeah. So let's hold that up. Can you hold that in place? So like that.

Amber: So we've wrapped around the circumference.

Hazel: Yeah. And now we're gonna wrap it around the length. I think it might be the width.

Amber: Oh yeah, the width of the

Hazel: The width is obviously the narrower part.

Amber: The width circumference. Oh, well. Yeah.

Hazel Doesn't matter. You know what we mean. Let me hold my finger on there for you.

Amber: So struggling to tie it without assistance.

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Hazel: That's okay. If you can't do it in a bow, which I don't think we can in this case, do it in a knot. We'll still be able to make it look lovely.

Amber: A lovely, lovely knot. So bit tight.
So as you can see, it's all tied up around the width and the length or the circumference, 'depending' on whatever.

Hazel: Depending.

Amber: Oh, it didn't feel right. But, um, so.

Hazel: Yeah, there we go. So if I could just show you this next bit.

Thank you very much, Amber. That was marvellous.

So as you can see, it doesn't actually matter that the ribbon isn't a bow because.

Amber: Because it's decorative.

Hazel: Because it's decorative. Exactly. So what we can do now, so this is something that we have that is from a broken Christmas decoration.

Obviously, a short note about glitter and that kind of thing very often contains a microplastics. However, if it's glittery, things that you already own, you know, it's, it's, you know, it's a good thing to, to use those and, and not throw them away. And as I say, this is from a broken decoration. So what we can do is tuck it under, we can have a tuck it under that part. Okay, let's have a look.

Amber: I think you should tuck it in the middle 'cause then it'll have like a little extra grip, if you know what I mean.

Hazel: Just give me one second? Okay.

Amber: Oh that's a good idea.

Hazel: What we'll probably do now, if you just push, can you just push that under there?

Amber: Oh yeah, that's what I was thinking.

Hazel: You could also do this with actual, like real holly of course be careful. because Holly can prickle you. Or if you wanted to, you could use ivy leaves.

Amber: Which is quite Christmassy.

Hazel: Quite festive. Yeah. So anything, anything festive. It's quite nice actually to use real materials. So if you have them in your garden or if you know someone that does, you may be able to get it from other, other areas as well. You might need to ask permission before you do so, depending on where you get it from.

So there we go. So that looks quite nice.

Amber: It looks like a Christmas decoration.

Hazel: It does a little bit. So you might want to use, you might want to, you know, if you have something gold but obviously this is something we already had in. So if you have some, I don't

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know, some blue paper, that might look nice. But obviously the, the point is here that we're repurposing, we're reusing. And also in the case of the sparkly thing, we are using something that has come off a broken Christmas decoration.

You could use paper tape or biodegradable tape instead of ribbon to make it easier.

These gift wrap ideas were created with repurposed materials and ribbon instead of plastic tape which is much better for the planet!!

Hazel: Wonderful. Okay. Right. So here's one we prepared earlier. A similar kind of shape. Nothing sparkly on this one.

Amber: Slightly Wider.

Hazel: Slightly wider, yeah. So just to kind of give, give you an idea. Also a point to note, hat the ribbon, is again, repurposed, it's come from a gift hamper that we received some time ago. I put that ribbon to one side with all of our gift wrapping materials so that we can use it for gift wrapping.

Let's take a look at making your own gift tags.

So Here's one that we prepared earlier. Do you wanna hold that up Amber?

Amber: Here is a gift tag we prepared earlier. And now I'm going to show you how to make your own out of a card.

Hazel: This of course a card that we have received in a previous Christmas time.

Amber: So what you're going to do is cut off the writing or if there's no writing, that's fine too, but you're still gonna need to cut it off because we only want the front design.

Hazel: Yeah.

Amber: So just carefully cut, not be too rough but you can take as long as you like. Okay. So now we've got just the front design, which has snowmen skating. So what you're going to do, if you have a hole punch, that'll be a whole lot better.

Hazel: Be very careful. She is just making a hole, using scissors, in the top left-hand corner. So as she says, if you have a hole punch, that would be better. Unfortunately, we couldn't find ours. Yeah. Um, so definitely use a hole punch, especially if you've got very young children. So yeah, be super careful there. Yeah.

Amber: And now I've cur created the hole. I don't know if you can see that, but I made a hole and it should be good. So you can either use small thin cord, or you can use ribbon, or you can use this (shows some lace ribbon).

Hazel: That's probably a bit big for so do you wanna do it with a cord?

Amber: I'm going to use the cord.

Hazel: And just to note that the gold cord, that you can see there. I that Amber just held up. I'll just hold it up again. This is cord that we got from charity shop, just a few days ago actually. This is second-hand.

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Amber: So what you're going to do is loop it through. As you can see, I haven't done anything apart from put it through. So now what I'm going to do is do a loop inward. So it's kind of like a half knot of sorts.

Hazel: Like you are tying your shoelace basically.

Amber: And then you can do it again.

Hazel: So yeah, basically you're making a knot.

Amber: You're making a knot.

Hazel: You're making a knot, and that's it. That's all you're doing.

Amber: Now that you've made the knot, you can tie this onto, say this when it's wrapped around your present. Yeah. Or you can literally, I've used this and then you can just use this to wrap around your presents.

Hazel: Yeah. So basically, yeah, so as Amber says, you can, you can tie the cord to some ribbon that you have wrapped around your present. Alternatively, you could use recycled paper tape, as opposed to you ordinary Sellotape that you can buy. I think you can get biodegradable tape, I don't know how well that biodegrades. You can certainly get paper tape. What may be even more ethical to do would be to attach this cord, as Amber says, to your ribbon when making DIY tags.

If you don't want to tie your tag to your parcel, why not use paper tape or biodegradable tape instead of tape that is made from plastic!

When making DIY tags: Don't forget that you recycle the other piece of your Christmas card (the side without the design).

Top tip: any cards that you recycle must be free from glitter, embossing or sequins.

Let's take a look at gift wrapping with repurpose fabric and ribbon.

Amber: So you put this down on the floor and place the book there. Mm-hmm. Use a significant amount around the edge to start and then you would begin to fold it, get nice and tight, keep folding until you reach the end. Then what you would do is fold this there and fold this there.

Hazel: That's right. So obviously you are going to need me to hold that in place for you. It is kind of, I think, I'm sure people can do it as a one-man job, but I think in this case it's definitely a two-person job. So, I will do that in a moment. But just to say that, that fabric wrap that Amber is using and wonderfully holding in place is from a fabric covered sofa that we used to own, that got damp damaged at the back, in a house that we used to live in, that was quite damp. So unfortunately we did have to get rid of the sofa but we were able to salvage some of the fabric. Yeah, the material from the sofa. It, you know, it had actually been previously tie-dyed by me, as you can see. So we've managed to salvage some of the material. Not all of it, of course, because of the damp damage but we managed to salvage some of it. So we use it for fabric gift wrapping.

Top tip: Trim your fabric edges to make it look a bit neater.

Amber: As you can see, we've tied this lace around the front of this, and now we're going to begin to do this. And if you're wondering what I've done, I've basically just done this and then

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turned it around like that (demonstrates tying the ribbon around the parcel in a criss-cross manner). So you keep that tight and then I need a special finger-holder. (Hazel places her finger on the parcel). Thank you. Okay. And then what I'm going to do is tie a small knot. There, let go please. Then I'm going to do is turn this around again.

Hazel: You can see you do, you know, you do need quite a bit of lace.
You might need to go round it again actually Amber, as opposed to width ways.

Amber: I think it should be good here. Obviously, we've run a little short on this side but that's okay because this is only for demonstration purposes. So what you would do is you can either do a bow or a knot due to my limited amount of ribbon on one side, I'm simply going to do a knot. So you can even orientate it that way or that way (shows the lace length-ways and width-ways across the parcel). Mm-Hmm. And then if you have room to do a bow, do a bow. It'll look very nice.

Hazel: Do you want to trim off the end of that lace?

Amber: Yeah. (Trims the longer piece of lace). So here's the scissors. Be very careful scissors. And I've snipped that off. So as you can see, it looks very nice even without the bow. You can always add decorative pieces.

Hazel: Do you want to demonstrate a decorative piece?

Amber: So these are two decorative pieces that we have. They are old things, old pieces, that we didn't really have any of a purpose for. So we're going to use them in this.

Hazel: Actually, that one that you are securing in there is a another piece of the broken decoration that we have. She's just pulling that through underneath very carefully. Probably don't need to pull it all the way through Amber, I wouldn't say. Okay. No, that's, yeah, that's looking good. Fair play.

Amber: As you can see, it's been placed in very securely because it's wrapped in the middle of it. Yep. So I'm just going to orientate that back slightly. And as you can see, it's now securely placed inside of the ribbon and therefore being a little ornament to the present.

Top tip: Thinner fabric is easier to work with than thicker material.

Remember: use what you have already or buy second-hand fabric.

Hazel: Showing you the back of the, uh, the gift.

Amber: The gift.

Hazel: The gift. As you can see, this is a little bit messy on the back, so we're just gonna kind of tidy it up.

Amber: So what you can do to make it neater is tuck this under. So in the process of tying the ribbon, things got a little untucked but what you can do to just neaten it up on the back is simply tuck the ribbon under. Yeah, that's a little bit neater.

Hazel: Now there are lots of videos online, on YouTube and no doubt in other places, that shows you how to kind of do, do them in, in a much kind of like neater kind of way than we are kind of demonstrating here. Obviously, what you can do as well is just make sure that the, the ends of your fabric has been cut very neatly as well, which ours is, perhaps not as neat as it could be. Can you maybe tuck in, tuck in that side a little bit on the, that side there?

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Amber: This side?

Hazel: Tuck it in under. So what we're gonna do, just to make it look a bit neater, I'm gonna fold this under like that into like v-shape.

Amber: And now you've got like a little triangle on the end.

Hazel: I'm gonna do the same on the other side. That's a lot neater. Now, what you will find with this type of gift wrapping.

Amber: It's a little thick?

Hazel: In this case, yes, it is a little thick because of the type of fabric that you're using. So obviously you might want to use something that's thinner. But this is obviously a fabric that I wanted to repurpose and actually I didn't really want to get rid of it because you know, I spent quite a lot of time, tie-dying the fabric but also, you know, I wanted it to be repurposed. So you can so create those into a v-shape, which looks a lot neater. As, as we've noted, easier with thinner fabric.

I would also note with this type gift-wrapping, it's fantastic, it's a really great thing to do but it is a little, it can be a little bit fiddly and also, it's probably important to note that if you are traveling any kind of distance with your, with your gifts, you might wanna pop them, in a bag and just make sure that they don't kind of move around too much in your vehicle or however you are, you know, however you are traveling because, you know, they, they can become untidy in transit. So sometimes it's more useful if they're, if they're not having to travel a great distance. As you can see, it looks pretty good, pretty festive.

The lace in this video is from a local charity shop.

I think we've noted before, instead of using, this kind of glittery material, you can have of course use real holly or real ivy. Maybe without the berries because obviously berries are quite heavily, staining. They look beautiful but you'll find that they'll stain things if you leave them on there. Of course, be careful with holly because it's very prickly. I think we've noted before, obviously this does have glitter on it and glitter, generally speaking, does contain microplastics, unless of course it's some form of hyper wonderful biodegradable glitter. Of course, because these are things that we've already had, you know, it doesn't make sense to throw them away, it makes sense to repurpose them. So that's another point to bear in mind.

As you can see, it's easy to make your Christmas a little bit more ethical. If we repurpose, reuse, reduce and recycle we can make a big difference. Why not follow Ansa on social media or check out the Ansa website for more ideas. Linktree: linktr.ee/ansaenvironmentalservices. Website: ansa.co.uk

Thanks for watching.