

Christmas Crackers

Give cracker presents with a meaning this year and cut down on single-use plastic.

You will need: cracker bangs (available in craft shops or online), toilet roll or other cardboard tubes, paper or wrappers (such as pre-loved, non-recyclable wrapping paper) to decorate, your choice of gifts.

Method: Place the cracker bang carefully inside your loo roll or other cardboard tube and place it on top of the paper you will be wrapping it in to check for size – you want the cracker bang ends to be just covered. Mark where your cardboard tube comes to on the inside of the paper.

Then, removing the card tube again for now, carefully fold one end of the paper over to the mark you have made and cut some small slits – these will help you squeeze the ends of the paper in to tie them neatly. It's a good idea to try this out on a spare piece of paper first to make sure you have the slits in the right place and to see how big to make them. Do the same at the other end.

Now, wrap the paper around the card tube with the cracker bang in and fasten with a small piece of tape. Tie your ribbon around one end.

Now fill up the cracker with your chosen gift and joke. I find jokes online to print out, or reuse jokes from the crackers at my work Christmas lunch – even better write your own.

Add homemade paper hats or use Santa hats as place settings instead.

Once the gifts are in, all you need to do is tie the second ribbon to close the end – and label them if you have personalised the gifts.

Thanks go to [Vicky of Homegrown and Foraged](#) for providing us with this “how to” guide



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