

How to Make Great Gift Baskets

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Gift Basket Tool Kit

- Baskets/Containers – wicker, wood, wire, practical items like colanders, serving bowls, bassinets, buckets , tins, crates
- Filler -peanuts, newspaper, foam, straw, shred, tissue paper
- Raffia, Ribbon, Bows (pull bows are my favorite)
- Glue sticks and gun, glue dots, double sided tape
- Scissors, twists ties, packing tape, rubber bands
- Cellophane, tulle netting, shrink bags, hair dryer
- Gift tags
- Gifts

Step One – Pick Your Theme

- Pick your theme
 - Holiday
 - Birthday
 - Wine & Cheese
 - Graduation
 - Cooking
 - New Home
 - New Baby
 - Gardener
 - Spa
 - Book or Movie
 - Sports
 - Coffee, Cookies, or other Food Theme

Step Two – Gather Your Supplies

- Gather Your Supplies
 - Gift Basket Took Kit
 - Gifts

Step Three – Assemble the Basket

- Assemble the Basket
 - Choose the appropriate size container, make sure it is tall enough to be sturdy once the gifts are placed inside
 - Add filler to the bottom of the basket and place the largest items in first to create a mold in the filler placing tallest items in the center
 - Cover the filler with tissue paper if using newspaper, peanuts or other filler that you do not want to be seen

Step Three Continued

- Assembly continued
 - Place large items back in the basket
 - Arrange smaller items around the large ones attaching them to one another with glue dots so they will stay in place

Step Four – Wrap the Basket

- Wrap the Basket
 - Shrink wrap bag, place the basket in the bag and close the top with a twist tie. Using the hot air gun or hair dryer, shrink the material around the basket. Be careful not to stay in one area too long or you will burn a hole in the material.
 - Cellophane, using a sheet large enough to cover the basket, place the basket in the middle and pull of the short sides first then the longer sides. Gather the ends in the middle above the basket and secure with a twist tie or tape. If the short sides gap then secure them discretely with tape.

Step Four Continued

- Wrap the Basket continued
 - Adorn the basket with ribbon and/or a bow
 - Attach the gift card to the outside with ribbon or tape

Tips

- Fruit will ripen quickly once placed in a bag do be sure to deliver baskets with fruit quickly
- Use FDA approved, food safe baskets, filler and wrap for baskets with fruit or other open foods
- Cellophane size – triple the size of the basket
- Determining shrink bag size –
 - measure the height of your gift and add 10% then divide by two, measure the width of your gift, add 10% and divide by two.
 - Ex. 20" high x 10% = 22" divided by 2 = 11"; 10" wide x 10% = 11" divided by 2 = 5.5" so your shrink bag needs to be at least 11" x 5.5". Always go larger as bags will shrink up to 60%