

# Twelve tips for a Thrift Christmas

## Make your holiday sustainable and fun

# Dish out some thrifted plates

If you have more guests coming to Christmas dinner than dishes in your cupboard, don't panic! Check your local MCC Thrift shop for plenty of plates in appealing patterns. You can even choose a different pattern for each place setting if you want a personalized touch.

If you don't need extra plates year-round or don't have space to store them, donate them right back after the holidays. Just make sure they don't have any traces of turkey left on them.





# Fill a vase with decor

Look for a clear, glass vase and enough Christmas tree ornaments to fill it at your local MCC Thrift shop.

The ornaments don’t need to be from a matching set to look beautiful. Pick a few coordinating colours and look for different shapes and textures. Arrange the ornaments in your vase for a colourful holiday display.

# Wrap gifts in fabric

Instead of wrapping paper—which often can't be recycled—think fabric! It can be reused or even be part of the gift itself. Use thrifted tote bags or pouches for hard-to-wrap items.

Or, if your gift is in a box, look for a square scarf or kerchief that's larger than your box. Place the box in the middle of the fabric and tie opposite corners together.







# Make tags from cards

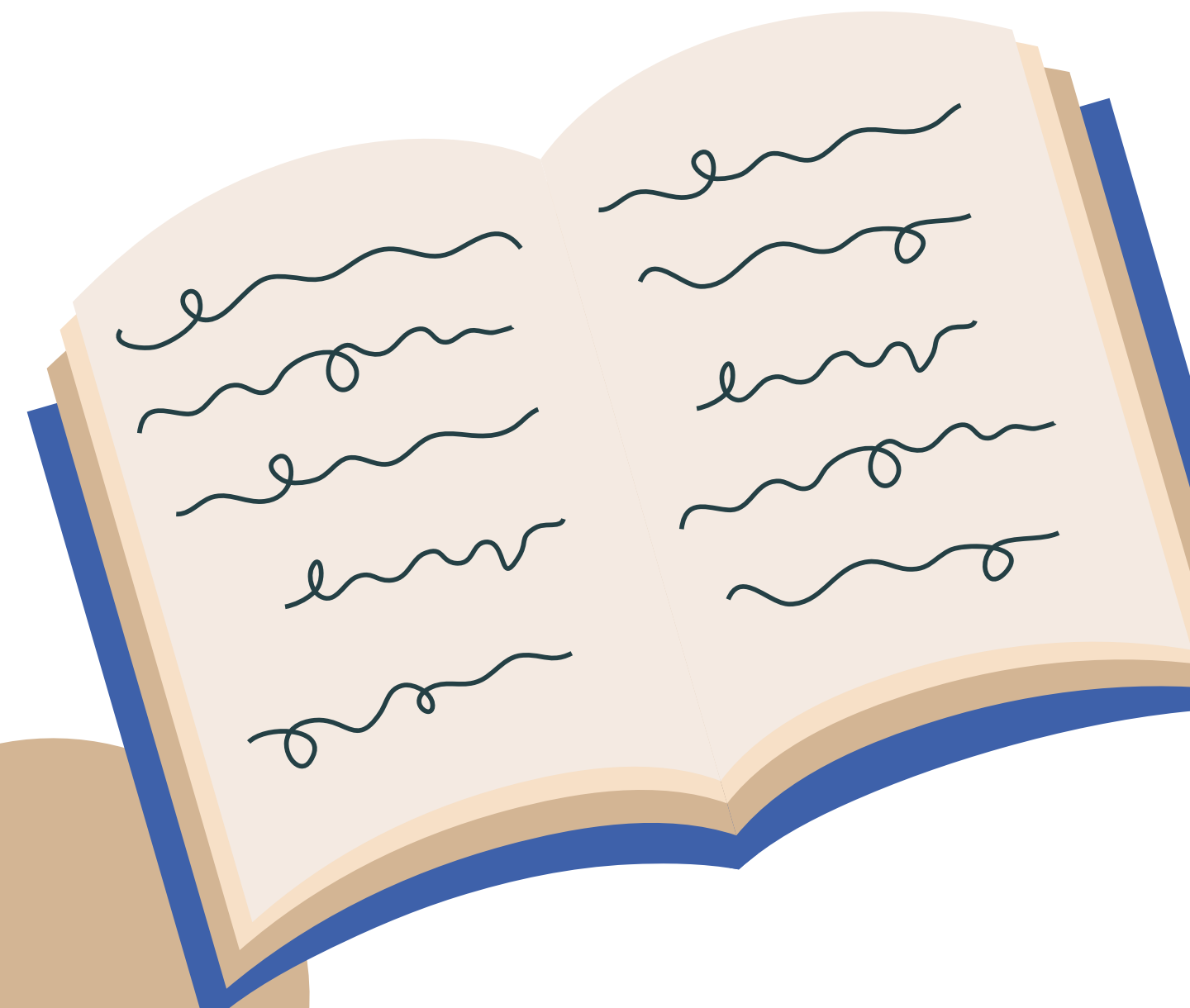
Do you have a box full of old Christmas cards? Use the seasonal designs on the front to make upcycled gift tags.

Cut out the shape of tag you want using scissors or a paper punch. Make a small hole for ribbon and write your message on the back. Now you've got a one-of-a-kind way to label your gift.

# Annotate a book

Turn a thrifted book into a heartfelt gift. Find a thrifted book you think your loved one would like and break out a pen. If you want to keep it simple, write a short note inside the front cover.

You can also highlight your favourite sections of the book, write notes in the margins or add doodles and drawings. You can even give them a secret code to solve by circling letters that spell out your message.



# Turn a sweater into mittens

Thrift a sweater with a nice pattern and turn it into cozy mittens. Trace each of your hands on it two times. Cut out the four mitten shapes and sew the pairs together.

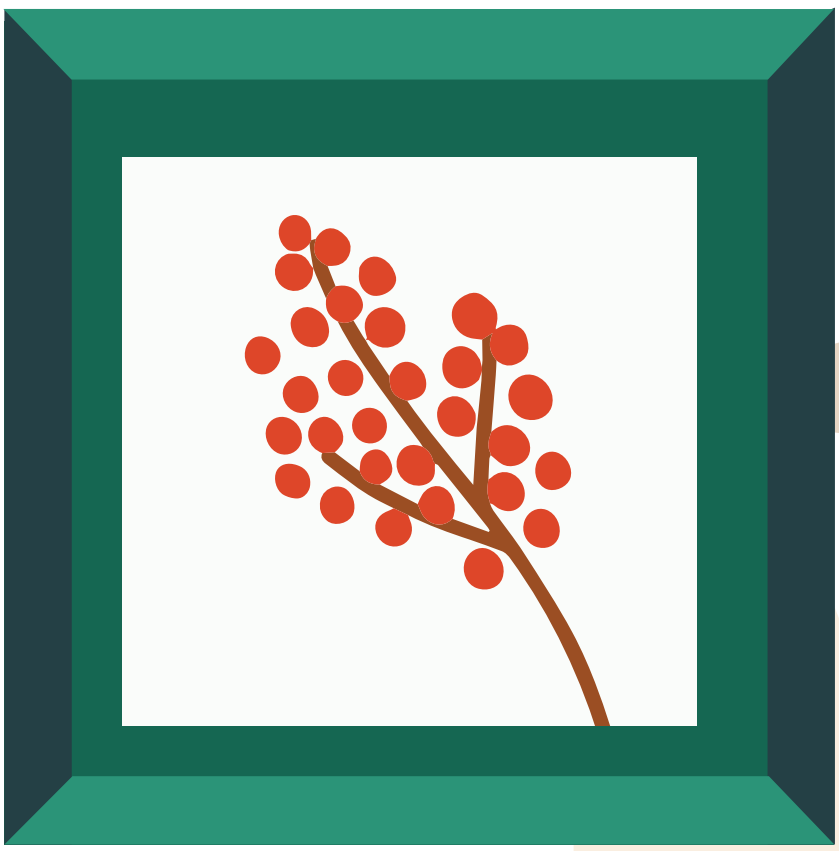
If you’re more experienced at sewing, repeat the process on a fleece sweater. Sew the fleece pair inside the knit pair for an extra warm lining.



# Frame something beautiful

There are tons of frames at your local MCC Thrift shop. Pick one in the size you like and put something pretty in it.

You can fill it with a meaningful photo, an art print from a local artist or something you created yourself.



# Bake some treats

Nothing says “Merry Christmas” like homemade baked goods. Whip up a batch of your favourite holiday treat and package it in a thrifted container.

Look for tins, small casserole dishes or even a cookie jar for your treats.









# Re-pour a candle

You'll need two thrifted items for this DIY. Grab a few candles and a container, like a jar or vintage teacup.

Melt the candles in a heat-safe bowl over boiling water. Once the wax is liquid, remove the wick. Carefully pour the wax into your new container and place the wick in the middle. Let cool and harden before gifting it.

# Re-pot a plant

Thrifted mugs, bowls and vases can make unique and interesting plant pots. Place a layer of small stones at the bottom for drainage. Then fill with potting soil and add a new plant.

Or if you already own a plant that propagates well, root a cutting from your plant.





# Give a game

Thrifted games or puzzles make a great gift just as they are. Or, if you're feeling crafty, you can add some personalized touches.

Try painting the game pieces in their favourite colour or adding photos of friends and family to the board.

# Start a thrifted gift exchange

Tired of shopping for too many gifts? Try a thrifted gift exchange instead. Have each person write their name on a slip of paper and exchange names.

Challenge everyone to find the coolest thrifted item they can for under $10. It's fun, eco-friendly and much more cost effective than buying gifts for each person on your list.



Have a Christmas tip that you don't see here? Let us know on Instagram by tagging **@MCCThrift**. And if you use any of these tips over the holidays, make sure to post a picture, we'd love to see it!

MCC Thrift is a network of 85+ thrift shops throughout Canada and the United States.

Find your **nearest location** here.

**mccthrift.com**

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