


# Decorative Take-out Boxes

Display your tasty homemade tidings in a 'decked-out' take-out pail. Easy and affordable, this festive holiday project is a great way to recycle.

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“Receiving the first holiday card of the season always brings a flutter to the heart. It’s confirmation that the season is upon us. We proudly display each card; some stand over the mantel, others are strung like garlands. We take such care of the cards we receive, so why do we toss them out when the festivities die down?”



Here’s an ‘eco-festive’ idea that’s simply delightful — decorative take-out gift boxes filled with homemade treats. In an effort to be conscious of the environment, and in light of the sheer pain it brings me to toss out the beautiful cards sent to me by family and friends, I came up with this festive recycling solution. These holiday pails are the perfect vessels to deliver your heartfelt treats in.

**MATERIALS LIST:** **1.** An assortment of holiday cards. (You’ll need at least one for every box you make). **2.** An assortment of traditional Chinese take-out pails. Experiment with different sizes and colors. Take-out pails are easily found at your local party or craft store, and can also be ordered on-line. **3.** A variety of cast-off holiday ribbon. Remember to hold onto the beautiful ribbons that adorn the gifts you receive. **4.** A bottle of white craft glue or a hot-glue gun with glue sticks. **5.** A pair of scissors and a single-hole punch.

**HOW-TO:** **1.** Begin by selecting a card, ribbon and box. **2.** Cut and crop the images and messages out from the card. Then cut the ribbon to the appropriate lengths. **3.** Make sure your cut-outs and ribbon are sized to fit your box design before gluing. **4.** Using craft glue or hot-glue gun, adhere your images, ribbon and messages to the box. Reserve one message for the name tag. **5.** For the name tag, punch a hole in the upper-left corner and another in the top flap of the box. Thread a piece of ribbon through each hole and tie. 



## the perfect gift box: tips

**1.** Be mindful of your color and pattern combinations. **2.** After you gather your materials, find a clean and spacious work area. **3.** Allow the glue on each pail to dry for several hours before filling. **4.** These gifts are also easy on the wallet. Comparatively, these jovial boxes are less expensive than pricey gift bags.