

David Tutera's Tips for Incorporating Paper and Paper-Based Packaging throughout the Wedding Process

1. **Wrapping a wedding gift** - There are more creative ways than you can imagine to personalize a wedding gift. Wrap the gift with white kraft paper and take colored paper sheets and cut shapes or designs to then glue to the paper. Write a message or add your own note to the bride or groom right on the paper. It will be presented so beautifully that the couple won't even want to open it!
2. **Handmade wedding cards** - With a die cut, you can easily create borders, trims and designs to add to a single piece of paper. The best part is that it's simple, fun, fast and custom. Let your creativity run wild when making your own wedding cards.
3. **Paper flowers** – Paper flowers from my line of paper are easy to assemble and you can turn them into paper bouquets for a bride and her maids to carry down the aisle. They are also great because you can attach a paper tag with a message from the bride to her maids and the flowers become a beautiful gift for them to keep.
4. **Gifting paper** - Paper is a must as a wedding gift. I love personalized stationery, note paper and a great journal embossed with the couple's new monogram. Oftentimes, these are items that they may not purchase for themselves, but they're thoughtful gestures that are sure to stand out from other gifts.
5. **Journals** - Journals are very on-trend and a great way to incorporate them into different parts of your life is to have separate pocket journals. I suggest giving journals out to the wedding party at the very beginning of planning, so they can document the wedding journey in their own words.
6. **Gift tags** – Gift tags are a great addition to gift wrapping. I love a creative paper tag that is taped or tied to a gift. This makes it easier for the bride or groom to know who the gift is from, as cards often get lost or misplaced.
7. **Table settings** - Paper placemats, paper napkin rings, paper runners and paper tablecloths are great additions to guest tables. Rolls of white or brown kraft paper and even colored paper can be used, and much like the idea of personalized gift wrapping, you can add words to the paper. Try writing the guest names on the top of the placemat to double as a place card or take rings of paper and create napkin rings. The best part is that this is easy and fast, and you can recycle when finished for a quick cleanup.
8. **Wrapping bottles** - Wrapping the outside of bottle of wine with paper is a new way to showcase wedding spirits. With a paper tag and some creative touches a simple bottle of wine becomes a festive decoration. You can do the same with large bottles of water for a dining table or at the bar. Infuse the water with herbs and write the flavor of the water on the paper for a boho style at your wedding celebration.