Gift wrap: measure the box before cutting

Measure the box, work out both paper dimensions with a simple formula, dry-fit before cutting and measure the ribbon route with string. The worksheet has length, width and height fields, both paper calculations, a ribbon-route line and optional To/From tags.

What you need

- The box you are wrapping
- Wrapping paper
- Ruler or tape measure and a pencil
- Scissors and tape
- String for measuring the ribbon route; ribbon itself is optional

Steps

1. Measure length, width and height

Use inches for these formulas. If your measurements are in centimeters, divide each by 2.54 to convert to inches. Length L is the longer lid side, width W the shorter lid side, and height H the box depth. Write all three on the sheet.

2. Work out both paper measurements

Wrap-around length = 2 × W + 2 × H + about 2 in of overlap. Other side = L + H + about 1 in, which leaves a little over half the box height at each end to fold in. Example: a 12 × 8 × 4 in box needs about 26 × 17 in of paper.

3. Dry-fit before cutting

Wrap the box loosely in the uncut paper, or in scrap paper cut to your numbers. The overlap should close along the bottom and each end flap should reach about halfway across the end. Adjust the numbers, then cut. Round or irregular gifts need their own trial.

4. Measure the ribbon route with string

Run string along the route you want and add enough for the bow and tails, then measure the string. Once around the length is 2 × L + 2 × H; a cross on the lid, once around each way, is 2 × L + 2 × W + 4 × H. Record the length that worked.

Tips

- Measure the box rather than the gift inside. These formulas use inches; convert centimeters to inches before adding the inch allowances.
- Write the numbers that worked on the sheet so the next box of the same size needs no re-measuring.
- The worksheet and tags are free. The optional Amazon link is for ribbon only; paper, tape and the box are separate. It is an affiliate link.

Full guide: https://figurenook.com/guides/gift-wrap-measure-the-box-before-cutting/

Your worksheet

Box

Length L _____

Width W _____

Height H _____

All measurements in inches (cm ÷ 2.54 = inches) _____

Paper

Wrap-around length = 2W + 2H + 2 in overlap _____

Other side = L + H + 1 in _____

Cut size (wrap-around × other side) _____

Dry-fit: overlap closes? ☐ Yes ☐ No, add more

Dry-fit: end flaps reach halfway? ☐ Yes ☐ No, add more

Ribbon

Ribbon route ☐ Once around ☐ Cross on the lid ☐ Other

String length for the route _____

Bow and tails allowance _____

Ribbon to cut (route + allowance) _____

What worked, for next time _____

Optional gift tags

Print on ordinary paper first, then on card if your printer takes it. Cut along the solid outlines.

To: _____

From: _____

Message: _____

To: _____

From: _____

Message: _____

To: _____

From: _____

Message: _____

To: _____

From: _____

Message: _____

To: _____

From: _____

Message: _____

To: _____

From: _____

Message: _____

About this sheet

Original AI editorial illustration depicting a design concept; review manufacturer specifications and product details for final suitability. Accessories, exact colour, fit and performance are not established by the image.

The guide and this sheet are free; no account, email address or purchase is needed. Product links on the guide are optional Amazon affiliate links.