

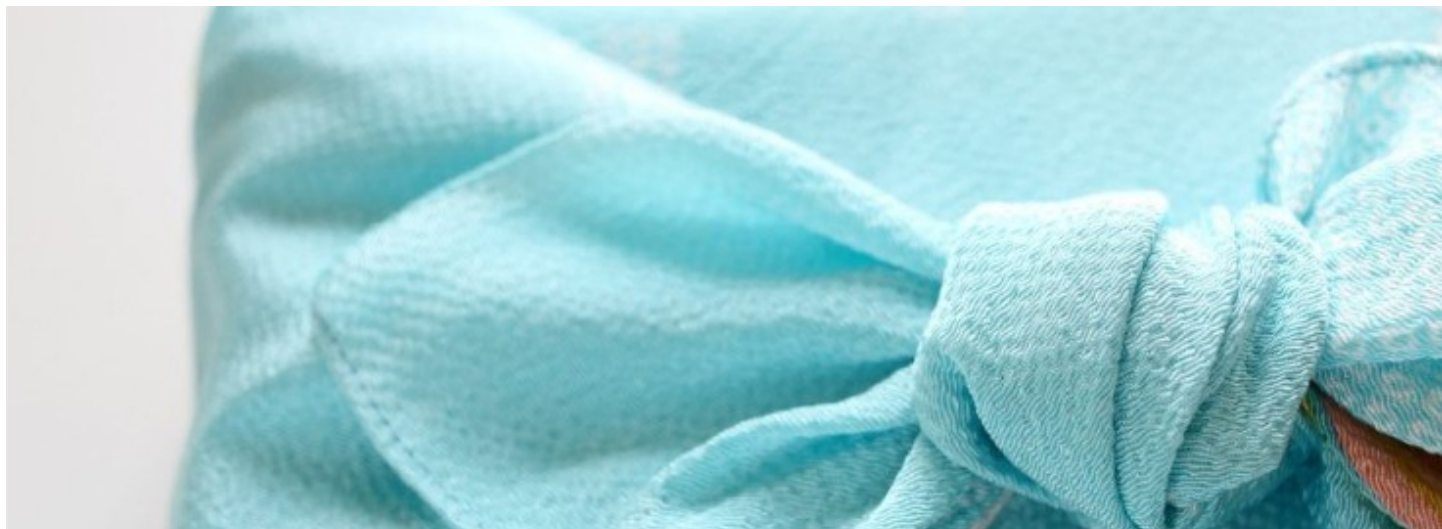
Trey Granger
Iry Furoshiki, Packaging Without the Plastic - Earth911.com

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Try Furoshiki, Packaging Without the Plastic

 Gemma Alexander  April 9, 2018



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Plastic bags are hard to recycle, but in America they're also hard to avoid. In Japan, the art of furoshiki helps many people avoid plastic by wrapping everything from sandwiches to wedding gifts in fabric. Learning furoshiki takes some practice, but once you get the hang of it, you may never need to use a plastic bag or wrapping paper again.

What Is Furoshiki?

The word *furoshiki* refers to both to the fabric itself and the practice of wrapping items in cloth. Modern furoshiki developed in the Edo period, when people visiting the public bath wrapped their clothes in a piece of fabric while they bathed, then used the fabric as a bath mat while they dressed. The direct translation of furoshiki is "bath mat." Japan is not the only country with a cloth-wrapping tradition; Koreans have been wrapping things in beautiful bojagi fabric for centuries.

Where to Find Furoshiki

Traditional, reusable furoshiki come in a wide variety of prints and fabrics. Available in boutiques or online, these fancy furoshiki are great for wrapping gifts. For everyday use, you don't have to spend a fortune. Any square or slightly rectangular piece of fabric that looks nice on both sides can be used as furoshiki. You can stock up on bandannas and scarves at the thrift store. While you're there, pick up a couple of old sheets to cut to shape for wrapping large or odd-sized items. Whether thrifted or new, fabric should be thick enough to support the weight of the object you want to wrap, but not too thick for tying in knots.