

Contain Yourself

The merchandise changes daily, even hourly at any Goodwill store. One thing I always find are decorated tin containers that were once filled with popcorn, candy, nuts or fruit cake. (The goose can is a leftover from someone's 80s country kitchen!) They can be found in a variety of sizes and shapes, and these were only 49 cents each!



Tins can be the ultimate in recycling. Updated with new decorations, they make great storage containers for your desk, bath or pantry. Match three or four in graduated sizes and you have a custom canister set for your flour, sugar and coffee. When given with a gift, the can becomes part of the present. Wouldn't you rather save and reuse a pretty tin than a cardboard shirt box?



Cans are easy to update with a little fabric, paper or paint.

Idea 1

The tall red can is covered with a burgundy faux suede fabric. I happened to have a remnant in my closet. Instead of going to the fabric store, look in the clothing section at Goodwill for a skirt or blouse in a material you like. Check out the blazers for unique buttons.



Simply cut the fabric to size and spray adhesive or craft glue will hold it in place. Since the suede had no pattern, I decided to paint my own design with acrylic paint and a small brush. I stacked and glued buttons to the top to create a handle and now I have an instant piece of art work.



Idea 2

Leopard fabric offers a whole new dimension. I added a narrow black trim to the top and bottom for a more finished look. Tied with a cord, it's another "gift". Or add ball fringe and hide your jewelry or cotton balls.





Idea 3

Paper is even easier. Simply glue the paper to the can, tie up with colorful ribbon and the package looks as good as the gift.



Idea 4

Painting tins takes a little more time, but you can get any look you want for very little money. First make sure the can is clean inside and out. Paint a coat of primer and as many coats of paint as it takes to cover the original design. It took three coats of lime green and a little wash of purple to get the look I wanted. Paint your design free hand or if you unsure of your artistic ability, use a stencil or even decals.



I'm not a big fan of canisters taking up space on my counter, but a set of these would look great in a retro or contemporary kitchen. Be sure to stop by your local Goodwill Store & Donation Center to scoop up all of your tin containers today!

