

## Green Credit Crunch Gifts

Home-made presents are not only cheaper, but can also be environmentally sustainable as they use less resources and energy to produce and transport.

Here are three ideas:

**Name of present:** Hand-made Bath Salts

**Total Cost:** £2 or less

**Details:** Buy some coarse sea salt and some bicarbonate of soda (£3 for 3kg from Chinese supermarkets). Mix together - approx 2 parts salt to 1 part bicarb - and add a few drops of essential oil for fragrance. Peppermint is good for reviving; eucalyptus is good for decongesting; lavender is good for relaxing. There are many options and combinations! Pour onto a circle of material - use recycled scraps to save money - then bring the edges together and tie at the neck with a string or wool. You could attach a tag to the string with a list of ingredients and a message. A cheap, personalised gift with the extra bonus of all natural ingredients!

**Name of present:** Personalised Story Book

**Total Cost:** £2 or less

**Details:** Make a book for your loved ones to record their fond memories and proud moments. Do you know someone who has recently become a grandparent, for example? Give them the chance to pass on stories about their first day at school, their childhood ambitions and their achievements in life. Simply hole-punch some good quality paper and tie together with a ribbon and some decorated card at each end for a cover, then hand-write some chapter headings and leave the rest blank for your recipient to fill out!

**Name of present:** Voucher

**Total Cost:** Free!

**Details:** Instead of handing over yet more bulky items that may end up as junk, be different this year and give the gift of time! Do you enjoy clearouts? Or perhaps you're good at DIY or sewing? Whatever your passion, turn it into a present by making a 'voucher' entitling the recipient to an hour/day/etc of your skills. Re-use card (e.g. from a cornflakes box) for the ultimate in greenness.

Many more can be found at [www.moneysavingexpert.com/shopping/festive-fivers](http://www.moneysavingexpert.com/shopping/festive-fivers)