

WORST-CASE SCENARIO®

HOW TO THWART GIFT SNOOPERS



Wrap gifts immediately.

Snoopers will begin searching long before the holidays. Wrap gifts as soon as you bring them home to avoid early detection.



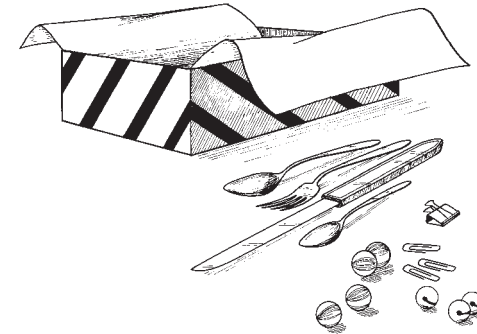
Add items to the package.

Include marbles, bells, silverware, small weights, or paper clips in the box before wrapping. These will throw off shakers.



Switch the name tags.

Put the wrong name tags on gifts to confuse and frustrate snoopers.



Adding objects such as bells, marbles, or silverware before wrapping will confuse snoopers.

★ **Move gifts frequently.**

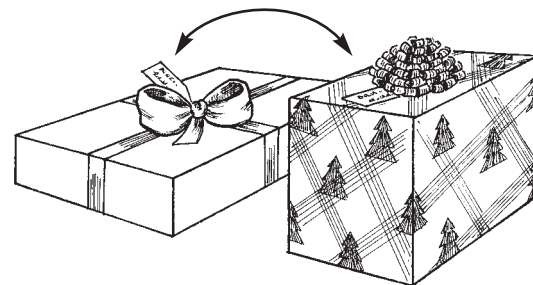
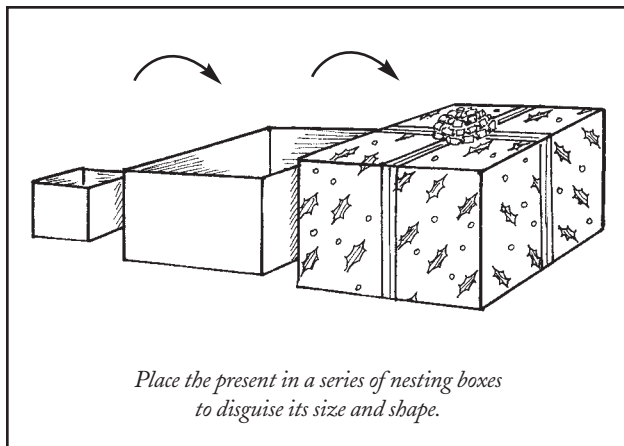
Snoopers will check a hiding spot and then move on. Changing the location of gifts will lessen the chance they will be found.

★ **Use a box significantly larger than the gift.**

Good snoopers will be attuned to the sizes of specific gifts. Use larger-than-necessary boxes to throw them off the trail, and stiff cardboard to thwart squeezers.

★ **Use multiple boxes.**

Put the gift in a series of wrapped boxes, one inside the other, to frustrate the snooper and deter even the most persistent opener. Use glue instead of tape to secure wrapping paper, since glue is more likely to cause the paper to rip, deterring a rewrapper from proceeding further.



★ **Wrap a fake present.**

Box, wrap, and tag an old shoe, broken video cassette, or used tennis balls. A snooper who discovers and opens this “gift” will be flummoxed and suitably punished; he may be outraged at the pathetic present, but will be unable to say anything without giving himself away.

Be Aware

Keep track of your protective and evasive measures. If you’ve scrambled name tags, you will need to know who is really to receive each present. If you’ve added items to the box or used boxes within boxes, you will need to explain their presence to their recipients. If you added silverware, you may want to remove it before delivering the gift, lest you never see your silver again. If you’ve moved the presents too many times, you may forget where you placed them. Try to avoid having to rewrap all the presents at the last minute to undo your thwarting devices.