

Mother's Day Tips

Giving Mom The Gift Of Relaxation

(NAPSA)—A little bit of creativity, packaged with a lot of care, seems to be the trend this year for Mother's Day. A hand-assembled "relaxation kit" is one example of a great gift for mothers.

Creative Cook's Kitchen suggests combining handy accessories with make-it-yourself beauty regimens, such as a face mask, for a spectacular basket. The items, all created from household ingredients, are easy to assemble and make an impressive presentation.

Mother's Day Relaxation Kit

Honey-Oatmeal Facial Mask:

- 3/4 cup rolled oats, finely processed**
- 5 tablespoons honey**
- Small jar**

Chamomile-Almond Facial Mask:

- 1/2 cup boiling water**
- 1 tablespoon dried chamomile flowers**
- 2 tablespoons bran**
- 2 tablespoons finely chopped almonds**
- 1 teaspoon honey**
- Small jar**

Basket:

Cucumber, cellophane or plastic bag, ribbon, handled basket, shredded craft paper, terry cloth hand towels, soap, nail brush, hair clip, cotton swabs, emery boards, jar of honey-oatmeal mask, jar of chamomile-almond mask, cup filled with herbal tea bags, hand cream, scented candles, instruction card.

Making the Honey-Oatmeal Facial Mask

1. In a medium bowl, combine oats and honey to form a paste.
2. Transfer the mixture to a small jar.

Making the Chamomile-Almond Facial Mask

1. In another bowl, pour boiling water over chamomile flowers; let stand for 30 minutes. Strain the mixture through a sieve set over a bowl.



Hand-assembled "relaxation kits" are catching on as thoughtful gifts for busy Moms (whose isn't?) this year. The facial mask recipes can be found at www.creativecookskitchen.com.

2. Transfer 3 tablespoons of strained liquid to a small bowl. Add bran, almonds and honey; mix well. Transfer to a small jar.

Assembling the Basket

1. Cut cucumber in 1/8-inch slices. Pack slices in cellophane bag; tie with ribbon.
2. Line the basket with shredded craft paper. Roll 1 hand towel; place in a corner of the basket. Tuck soap and nail brush into the towel; attach the hair clip. Bundle cotton swabs and emery boards; tie each with ribbon and add to basket. Arrange the other items in the basket.

3. Write the instructions for using the facial masks on a note card: "Enjoy each for 10 minutes, then rinse with warm water." Include the recipes for both masks. Punch a hole in the card and use ribbon to attach the card to the basket.

To make the holiday even more of a relaxing respite, consider including a gift voucher for a massage with the basket, taking Mom out to lunch or making her favorite dish for dinner.

Creative Cook's Kitchen produces expertly written, easy-to-follow recipes. To obtain a free 10-day trial, call 1-800-566-4554 or visit www.creativecookskitchen.com.