

Gift graduation flowers without plastic wrapping by tying the stems with string and covering them in paper or cloth. Choose a simple bouquet that is easy to carry, and plan how to keep the stems damp until you give it.

Choose flowers that travel well

Graduation days can involve long walks, crowded rooms and plenty of photographs. Pick a small bouquet with sturdy stems rather than an arrangement that needs both hands. Sunflowers, carnations and chrysanthemums can make a cheerful bunch without much extra material.

Ask for the flowers without a plastic sleeve, foam or decorative plastic ribbon. If you are gathering the stems yourself, remove leaves that would sit below the waterline in a vase. Keep the bouquet in water until you need to leave.

Wrap the stems in paper

Plain kraft paper makes a practical outer wrap. Lay a sheet on a table with one corner pointing toward you. Place the flowers across it, leaving the heads exposed. Fold the lower corner over the stems, then bring the sides in around the bunch.

Use enough paper to protect the stems without making the bouquet bulky. Tie it with cotton string or paper twine. A loose knot is easier for the graduate to undo. Avoid tape if you want the paper to be easy to separate for reuse or recycling.

Use cloth for a reusable wrap

A clean tea towel, cotton napkin or fabric square can hold a bouquet neatly. Place the flowers diagonally on the cloth, fold one corner over the stem ends and bring the side corners around them. Tie the fabric or secure it with string.

Choose a cloth the recipient can keep and use. A plain color lets the flowers stand out in photographs. Keep the wrap clear of the flower heads so petals do not get crushed on the way to the ceremony.

Keep the flowers fresh in transit

For a short trip, bring the bouquet in a bucket or jar with a little water. Set it somewhere stable in the car, away from direct sun. Take the flowers out and dry the stem ends before adding the paper or cloth wrap.

If the journey is long, keep the stems in water as much as possible. A damp cloth around the ends can help for the final handoff, but it may wet the outer wrap. Bring a towel to protect your clothes and bag.

Make the handoff easy

Check where you can meet the graduate after the ceremony. A small bouquet is easier to manage alongside a diploma, a bag and other gifts. If flowers are not allowed inside the venue, leave them in a suitable place until everyone comes out.

Add a short note on paper and tuck it under the string. Remind the recipient to trim the stems and put them in clean water when they get home.

A little planning keeps the gift simple. Give the flowers room to breathe, keep them cool and let the blooms be the main event.

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