

Making Reusable Shopping Bags

This playbook describes the process of creating reusable shopping bags from different materials. The purpose is to promote eco-friendly practices by reducing the usage of disposable plastic bags.

Step 1: **Gathering Materials**

Collect all necessary materials such as fabric (cotton, burlap, canvas, etc.), scissors, a sewing machine, thread, and any desired embellishments (e.g., buttons, appliques).

Step 2: **Cutting Fabric**

Measure and cut two identical pieces of fabric to the desired bag size, adding a half-inch seam allowance on all sides. Also cut two straps to the preferred length.

Step 3: **Sewing Sides**

Place the two main fabric pieces right sides together and sew along the side and bottom edges while keeping the top open.

Step 4: **Forming Corners**

To create a flat bottom for the bag, fold the corners and sew across to form a triangle, then cut off the excess fabric.

Step 5: **Attaching Straps**

Fold the edges of the straps to hide raw edges and sew along. Then, attach the straps to the inside or outside of the bag, reinforcing with multiple stitches.

Step 6: **Hemming Top**

Fold the top edge of the bag over twice to enclose the raw edges and sew around the perimeter to create a neat hem.

Step 7: **Adding Embellishments**

If desired, sew on buttons, appliques, or other decorative elements to personalize the bag.

Step 8: **Final Checks**

Inspect the bag for any missed stitches or weak points. Reinforce as necessary before using.

General Notes

Fabric Choices

Choose fabric that is durable and washable to ensure that the bag can be reused multiple times and is easy to maintain.

Size Considerations

When deciding on the size of the bag, consider the typical items you will carry. Ensure the bag is not too large or too small for your shopping needs.

