

T-Shirt Reusable Bag

The plastic bags that we use when we grocery shop can take 10-1000 years to decompose and about a trillion bags are used a year worldwide! By making reusable bags from t-shirts, you are helping the environment by both recycling t-shirts and reducing the use of plastic bags.

You can use your t-shirt reusable bags in your daily life to help the environment or donate the bags to your community food bank for distribution to clients.



What You Need

- Old t-shirt(s) – thicker fabric will make for sturdier bags
- Sharp scissors or fabric scissors
- Washable markers (optional)



How You Do It (per bag)

- 1 Cut the sleeves off the shirt.
- 2 Cut neckline out of shirt to form the top opening of the bag.
- 3 Cut slits up from the bottom of the shirt about every inch (through both layers) and long enough so that you will be able to tie them twice.
- 4 Align the slits and starting at one end, tie the front and back pieces together in double knots until you have tied the whole row. This will create a fringe look. If you don't want fringe, tie from the inside.
- 5 *Optional:* Using some of the neckline, tie bows or knots at the top of each handle.



Before the project

READ ONE OF THESE BOOKS.

"I Want to Go Green! But What Does That Mean?" by Jill Dunn

This is a fun, rhyming story that introduces elementary-aged children to a green lifestyle. The main character takes readers on a silly yet educational adventure as he discovers simple ways to conserve resources and keep our Earth clean.

"One Plastic Bag: Isatou Ceesay and the Recycling Women of the Gambia" by Miranda Paul

Plastic bags are cheap and easy to use. But what happens when a bag breaks or is no longer needed? In Njau, Gambia, people simply dropped the bags and went on their way. One plastic bag became two. Then ten. Then a hundred.

The bags accumulated in ugly heaps alongside roads. Water pooled in them, bringing mosquitoes and disease. Some bags were burned, some were buried, but they strangled gardens. Something had to change. Isatou Ceesay was that change. She found a way to recycle the bags and transform her community. This inspirational true story shows how one person's actions really can make a difference in our world