

T-shirt Tote Bags

Craft Activity



Mrs Smith lived a very low waste lifestyle. To achieve this she did her best to repurpose items which have come to the end of their lives.

While Mrs Smith was unlikely to be seen rocking a band or event t-shirt we think she would have approved of this simple recycling project, as many of her worn out garments would have been made into new items such as a rag rug.

For this craft activity you will need:

- 1 T-Shirt – that one you have in the bottom of your cupboard which you don't wear but don't want to part with.
- A needle and thread (or a sewing machine, if you have access to one)
- A pair of scissors
- Lots of pins
- Chalk or a marker pen

Instructions:

The body of the bag

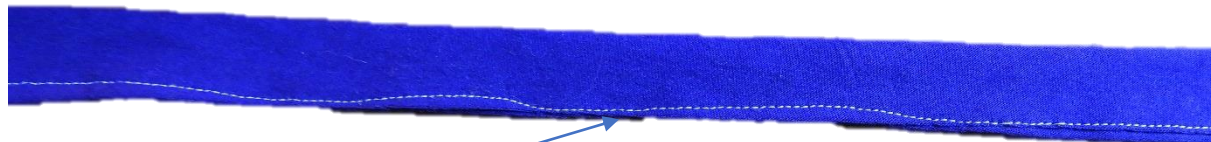
- 1.) Lie your t-shirt flat and mark where you want to cut.
You need to remove the sleeves and the neck part of the t-shirt, with enough room along the top to create a hem.
You will also want to take some length off the bottom of the t-shirt, this will give you some fabric to make the straps.



- 2.) When everything is marked out, cut along those lines and put the spare fabric to one side and you should be left with a tube of material which is open at the top and bottom.
- 3.) Turn the tube inside out and pin both sides of the bottom end together (if your t-shirt has an image on it you don't want is to be upside down), and stitch along the line. When you turn the fabric back the right way around you should have what looks like a bag shape!
- 4.) If you have an opening where the sleeves of the t-shirt were you will need to sew down the edge to close them.
- 5.) Now you will need to hem the top of the bag. Do this by turning the bag inside out and folding down the raw edge at the top, pressing this with an iron can make for a neater line. Pin in place and stitch along the opening.

Time for the straps!

- 6.) Find the material you cut from the bottom of the t-shirt and lay it out flat in front of you. Cut this material in two across the middle to create two small tubes, and then open the tubes up by cutting open one side. Now you have two lengths of fabric!



Sew along the edge.



Fold both edges in, then fold in half.

- 7.) Before attaching the straps need to be made neater, do this by folding in both lengths of the fabric by a few mm and pressing to keep in place them fold the entire strip in half and pin down the open length before sewing together.
- 8.) Once you have created a neat edge you will need to measure the straps, and cut them to a suitable length.
- 9.) You will need to stitch both ends of the strap to the same side of the bag! Pin each end where you want it to go, try it on to check the placement and to make sure the strap isn't twisted anywhere. Once you are happy stitch in place.



Pin to the bag, but make sure it sew it on the inside!