



REUSABLE PRODUCE BAGS

Make your own reusable produce bags. The light-weight bag shown at our booth are easy to sew, costs approximately ~ 85 cents in clearance-priced material, weighs only ½ ounce, and keeps plastic out of our landfill!

Materials

Fabric – One yard of 45 inch wide, strong, see-through fabric will give you four bags ~ 11"x17" (depending on your seam allowance). But you can make the bags any size you like. Short lengths of sheer curtain backing are often on sale for \$2-4/yd.
Tie – Use any string that won't unravel - old cloth or wrapping paper ribbon, shoe lace, yarn, etc.

Directions

Cut Fabric – Lay the fabric on the ground with the 45" side facing you. Fold the fabric in half and then once more, making sure all the corners line up. You should now have a 45" x 9" rectangle in front of you (see picture 1 over).

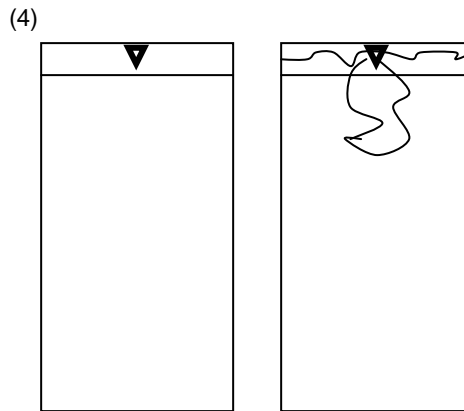
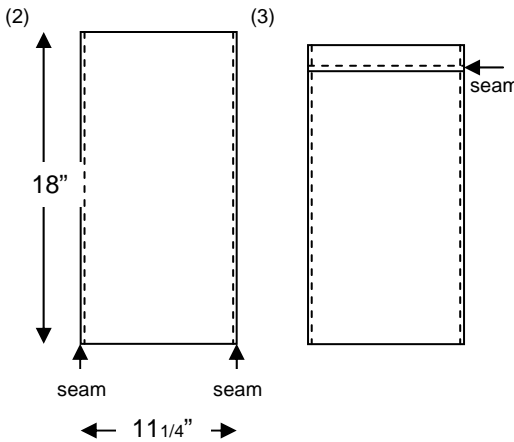
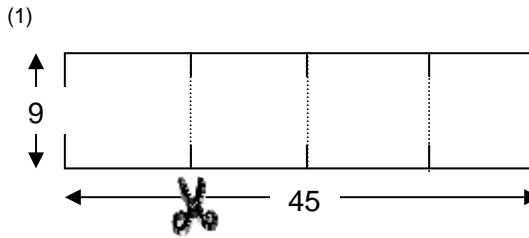
Measure every 11 ¼ " and mark each spot with a small cut or pencil line. Repeat on other side. Use the ruler as a guide to cut the fabric mark to mark.

You now have four 11 ¼" x 36" strips.

Sewing – If your fabric has a front and back, fold the front sides together to get an 11 ¼" x 18" rectangle. Sew along the length of the bag, with a small enough seam as you can. Repeat on other side (2). Turn bag right side out and repeat sewing seams. This makes a very strong "French seam."

Turn bag inside out again. Fold top over about 1 inch. Sew bottom of fold to make a pocket for your string.

Turn right side out again. Cut a small triangle in top of bag (3). Thread string through pocket. Tie or sew ends of string together (4).



For more tips on how you can reduce the amount of waste you create, see our website: www.lwvmesa.org.