

Resource Sheet - No Sew Tote Bag



Follow these simple steps to turn your old t-shirt into a reusable bag.

You will need:

- ★ Old t-shirt
- ★ Scissors
- ★ Ruler
- ★ Marker pen / chalk
- ★ Bowl or plate to draw around (optional)

Method

1) Cut the sleeves off

Lay your t-shirt out flat, with the front of the t-shirt facing you. Take your scissors and cut off each sleeve, making sure to cut the sleeve seam away with the t-shirt sleeve.



2) Cut the neckline

You can cut your neckline free-hand or by drawing a cutting line using a template.

If cutting free hand, remember to make the opening big enough to put items into your bag.

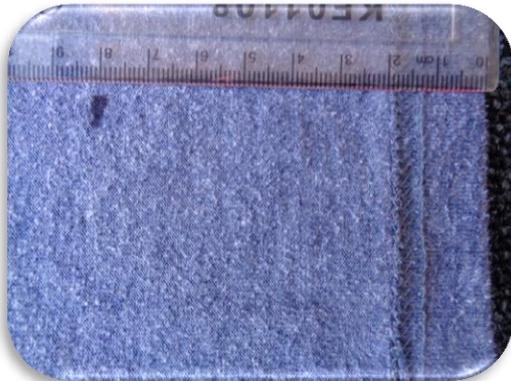
If you are going to draw a guideline to cut along, turn your t-shirt inside out and use a marker pen or chalk to draw a line around a plate or bowl so the line will not be visible on the finished bag.



3) Measure and mark the bottom of the t-shirt

Turn your t-shirt inside out and lay it out flat. This means that any marks you make will not be visible on the finished bag.

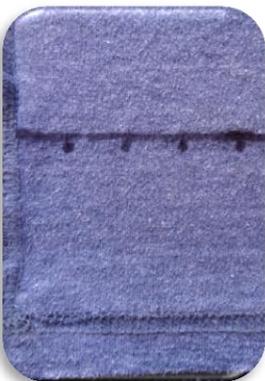
Measure 8 cm up from the bottom of the t-shirt along the side seam and make a mark. Repeat this step on the other side seam. Join the 2 points together with a line across the bottom of the t-shirt.



4) Mark and cut the fringe

Measure and mark 2cm intervals along the line.

Using your scissors, cut slits from the bottom of the t-shirt up to the line at 2 cm intervals. To make sure they match up, cut the front and back layers together.



5) Tie the fringe

The fringe can be tied once or twice to make the bag stronger.

The 'tie once' method

Working in pairs, tie the front fringe to the back fringe in a double knot. Repeat by tying each of the following pairs together until all fringes have been tied together.



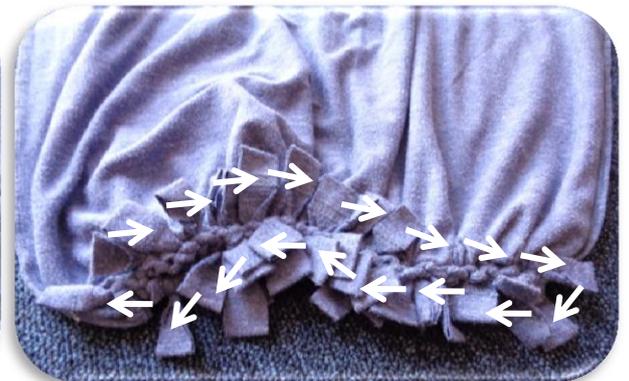
The 'tie twice' method

Follow the 'tie once' method to tie each pair together.

Separate the front fringe from the back fringe.



Take the first and second fringe from the top and double knot them together. Continue by tying the second fringe to the third fringe, the third fringe to the fourth fringe etc. until you have tied all the fringes together.



6) Turn your t-shirt

Your t-shirt tote bag is now complete.

Turn your bag right sides out and make sure there are no gaps at the bottom. Add an extra knot where required.

Your finished bag can be used to carry anything from books to sports kit and if it gets a bit dirty, just pop it in the washing machine with clothes of a similar colour.