

# DIY REUSABLE BAG

Have you ever taken time to really think about how much plastic you use in a day, a week, or a month? We tend to use disposable plastic all the time without even thinking about it and then throw it away when we're done. When not recycled, sadly all that plastic ends up in landfills and collecting in the kai (ocean), often hurting animals and our environment.

What if you could turn your clothes into something that can replace a disposable, one-time use item? Not only would you extend the life of your clothes, but you would also reduce waste and help to mālama our 'āina. Let's turn an old t-shirt into a reusable bag. This bag can replace paper or plastic shopping bags. You won't have to buy reusable bags again and since the bag is made out of a t-shirt, it's easy to wash!

## Materials:

- Charlk or marker
- Paper plate (optional)
- Old tshirt
- Ruler
- Scissors (fabric ones work best)

1. Turn the shirt inside out so any logos/designs stay inside. Lay shirt out on a flat surface and smooth wrinkles out of the fabric.

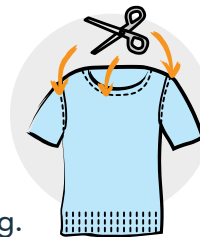
2. Use a ruler to measure about three inches up from the bottom of the shirt. Using chalk or a marker, draw a straight line across the shirt, three inches up.



3. Use scissors to cut strips equal distances apart from the bottom of the shirt - up to the line. When cutting, make sure to cut both the front and the back of the shirt at the same time. Be careful not to cut the strips off the shirt. Make sure the strips are at least an inch and a half wide.



4. Cut off the sleeves of the shirt just outside of the seam. Leave the seam that connects the body of the shirt to the sleeve intact. This seam will make your handles stronger.



5. Cut a deeper neck into the shirt so your bag has a bigger opening. Either free-hand cut or trace half of a paper plate around the neck first to guide your cutting.

6. To seal the bottom of your bag you will need to tie all those strips into knots. Take one strip from the back and one from the front. Tie the two together. Make a few tight knots before moving on to the next pair of strips.



7. Once the bottom of the shirt has been tied up, it will be a little scrunched up. Gently tug on both sides of the shirt to stretch the bottom back out.



Turn the shirt right-side out. Your knots will be hidden inside of the bag. You're all done!

Be sure to check out other resources at: <https://www.ksbe.edu/digital/holomoana/>

SHOW US WHAT YOU DID!



Send us a photo of your reusable bag for a chance to be featured on the Holomoana website!  
Email it to [ittraining@ksbe.edu](mailto:ittraining@ksbe.edu).