



DIY simple produce bags



One of the simplest ways to reduce our impact on the environment is to swap out single-use plastics with alternatives that are friendlier for the world we live in.

To help get you started Zero Waste Victoria have put together this DIY Simple Produce Bag instructions.

You can quickly make bags and eliminate your need to use single use plastic produce bags ever again. Every reusable bag helps as an average plastic bag is used for a mere 12 minutes and takes 100's of years to break down.











What you will need:

- Light weight cloth cut to 35cm x 60cm (reclaimed net / lace curtains work well)
- Thread
- Scissors
- Ribbon or cord if you want to add a tie

Instructions – Reclaimed net / lace curtains

These instructions are the same if you wish to sew your bags by machine. If sewing with a machine and organza it is a good idea to overlock the edges for longevity.





<p>1. Cut your fabric out</p>	
<p>2. Fold your fabric in half on the long side. With right/front of fabric sides together.</p>	
<p>3. Cut a length of thread which is long enough to stitch along two sides of your bag doubled. Tie a knot in the doubled thread. Sew through the fabric at the top join, then put your needle through the knotted thread to catch it tightly</p>	
<p>4. Start stitching with a running stitch along the first side</p>	





<p>5. Turn the corner and keep stitching to the fold</p>	
<p>6. Stitch along two sides of the fabric</p>	
<p>7. Knot off your thread</p>	
<p>8. Turn your bag the right way out and there you have it, your own produce bag!</p>	

Instructions – Reclaimed organza curtains

If you are using organza fabric you will need to sew a French seam to stop the fabric fraying and the bag falling apart quickly

These instructions are the same if you wish to sew your bags by machine. If sewing with a machine and organza it is a good idea to overlock the edges for longevity.

<p>1. Cut your fabric out</p>	
<p>9. Fold your fabric in half on the long side. With wrong/back of fabric sides together.</p> <p>Cut a length of thread which is long enough to stitch along two sides of your bag doubled. Tie a knot in the doubled thread.</p> <p>Sew through the fabric at the top join, then put your needle through the knotted thread to catch it tightly</p>	
<p>2. Stitch with a running stitch along two sides of the fabric. Knot off the thread at the end.</p>	
<p>3. Turn the fabric so that the right side / front of fabric is inside</p>	

<p>4. Take another piece of doubled thread, knot on and stitch with a running stitch along the two sides of the fabric again enclosing the seam you have already sewn. Knot off at the end.</p>	
<p>5. Turn your bag so that the right side / front of fabric is on the outside. 6. Fold under the top of your bag twice – 1cm each turn and stitch along the whole top of the bag.</p>	
<p>7. Knot off your thread. If you would like to add a ribbon or cord leave a small opening at the seam side and thread it through the hem you have just created.</p>	
<p>8. Your organza bag is complete.</p> <p>Be aware that organza will not last as well as the nylon net / lace fabric.</p>	



(We are always sourcing lightweight fabrics such as unwanted lace curtains and other sheer fabric to support this. Contact info@zerowastevictoria.org.au if you have fabric to donate.)