



Recycle your plastic bags

With shoppers coming home with more than 1 million plastic bags per minute, we all know that cutting back by using fabric bags is an easy way to stop litter. But how much good are those bags actually doing you? If you're not keeping them clean, choosing sustainable materials, or finding smaller sizes for produce, then you might not be making as much of an impact as you think.

The real key to making your grocery bags work for you is both the simplest and the hardest change: remembering to take them to the store. Keep a few in your car, some fold-up versions in your purse, backpack, or briefcase; hang a few on the door or in the garage as a reminder when you're headed to the car.



Here's an easy way to store your plastic bags so that they take up hardly any space. Pop them into your handbag so that you won't need to buy bags the next time you go shopping!

Flatten the carrier bag to remove all the air. Fold it over into a strip approximately 6cm wide. Starting at the bottom, fold over a triangular piece, and then fold the triangular piece over itself to continue the triangle shape to the end of the strip. Leave a small section of bag to tuck into the triangle.

Plastic bag Yarn

Turn your old plastic carrier bags into a yarn that can be used for a variety of projects. You can use any thin shopping bags with handles. They come mostly in white, greys, blues and greens. Make sure the bags are clean. Wash and dry if necessary.

How to make the plastic bag yarn:

Use thin shopping bags with handles. Make sure the bags are clean. Wash and dry if necessary.

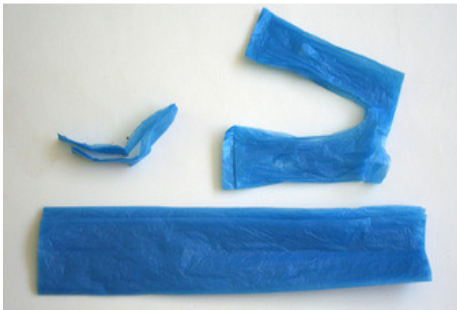


1. Flatten the seams and smooth the wrinkles.

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2. Fold the bag longitudinally into a 2.5 - 3cm wide strip. Handles at one end and bottom seam at the other.



3. Cut off handles and bottom seam. These can be used for other embellishments.



4. Cut remaining folded strip into 'biscuits' to whatever width you prefer. A good width is approximately 2cm. I use a 2.5mm - 3mm steel crochet hook for this width.



5. Unfold biscuits (loops). Knot loops together into one long piece of double-stranded yarn.



6. Tighten the knot.



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7. Resulting double-stranded yarn.



8. Wind the yarn up into balls.

This technique has been around for decades making from sun hats to coathanger covers to bathroom mats!



Courtesy of: http://hellejorgensen.typepad.com/gooseflesh/2007/02/plastic_bag_yar.html