



Help Keep Plastics out of Our Environment



Plastic bags are commonly found in trees along the Red River, and collecting these bags for proper disposal is often difficult. Reusable bags, like the ones that can be made out of old t-shirts, can be used again and again. A t-shirt could be

converted into a reusable tote in a matter of minutes, compared to the hundreds of years it takes for a plastic bag to degrade in a landfill. They will not break down completely though, from there they turn into smaller particles of plastic which can easily carry toxins throughout the environment. So, consider putting old t-shirts to use and help keep plastics out of the environment.

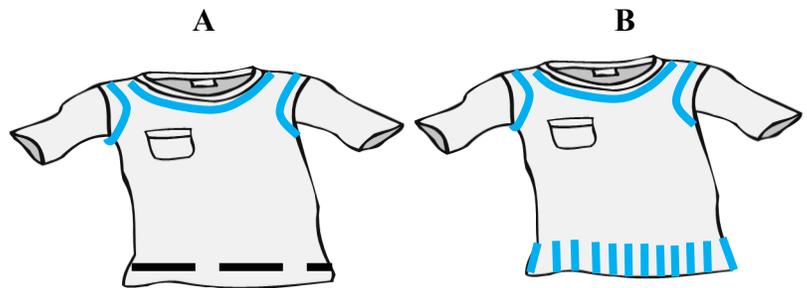
Simple Ways to Reduce Plastic Use:

- Use canvas, paper or cloth tote bags when shopping. Use the pattern to the right to make a T-shirt tote.
- Put the totes back in the car after shopping so they are available for the next shopping trip.
- Reuse plastic bags as many times as possible.
- Buy and use long lasting reusable containers instead of disposable bags.
- Bring a reusable cup or bottle to drink water throughout the day instead of buying disposable bottles of water.
- Recycle plastic bags at recycling bins in grocery and department stores.



T-shirt to Tote Pattern

1. Cut off sleeves and neckline; b) cut strips at bottom, including along the side seam 3 inches long about 1 inch thick.
2. A) Turn T-shirt inside out and sew bottom closed;
B) Turn T-shirt inside out and tie bottom fringes from the front and back of the shirt together (if you want fringes at the bottom of the bag do not turn inside out).
3. Turn right side out and use!



— Sew — Cut

Pattern supplied by: Moorhead Community Education
<https://communityed.moorhead.k12.mn.us>

Donate T-shirts in good condition to River Keepers. Volunteers will turn them into a tote which will be used for projects, outreach at various events, and used as an alternative option for customers at various local stores.

For more information:

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