



Make Re-usable Veggie Bags

What do you put your beans or your apples in when you shop? Do you use those plastic bags on rolls that the supermarket provides? Why not bring your own re-usable veggie bags, along with your big green re-usable bags? It's easy to make your own.

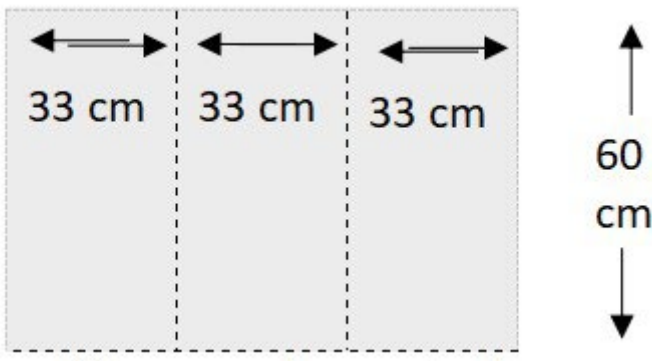
Materials and equipment

You will need:

- 100 cm x 120 cm very lightweight fabric, such as net or sheer polyester curtaining, fine weave Terylene, lining made from acrylic or polyester – you may be able to find a fabric remnant at a fabric shop, or some curtains you can recycle at an op shop – it should only cost a dollar or two. If your fabric is a different width, just adjust the size of your bags. (This will make 6 bags.)
- 3.6 metres of thin cord – a fine curtain cord is suitable, or you could substitute ribbon.
- Thread – an all-purpose polyester thread is suitable.
- sewing machine, scissors, tape measure, pins, safety pin.

Making the bags

1. Cut your fabric: spread out your fabric on a flat surface, folding it in half, so that you have a rectangle 100 cm x 60 cm. Measure 33 cm along and cut, and then repeat:



The dotted lines are the cutting lines. You should get 6 pieces of fabric, each 33 cm x 60 cm.

Note: the size of the bag is not crucial: you can adapt to suit the fabric you have, making them wider, narrower, smaller or larger if you wish.

2. Sew the seams: fold each piece of fabric in half, with the right sides together, so that it is 33 cm x 30 cm. Sew a 1.5 cm seam on each 30 cm side. Secure the ends, either by backstitching or finishing your thread ends.

3. Sew the casing for the drawstring: fold down 1 cm at the top of the bag, then fold down a further 2 cm. This makes the casing for the drawstring. Sew the casing close to the folded edge, so that there is a space of about 1.5 cm between the top of the bag and the casing stitching. Leave a 2 cm gap in the casing stitching at one side of the bag. Secure the ends.



Week Twelve



Close-up of casing for drawstring



4. Thread the drawstring: Cut a 60 cm piece of cord or ribbon for each bag. Pin a safety pin through one end of the cord or ribbon, and thread it through the casing, easing the pin gently along until it comes out at the other end. Remove the safety pin, and knot the ends of the cord or ribbon. Turn the bag the right way out. Your vegie bag is finished! It can be washed and re-used time after time.

2 vegie bags of different sizes:
one net, one sheer polyester

