Turn an old T-shirt into a tote bag

FIND YOUR REPURPOSE

This is a simple way to give an old T-shirt a completely different use.

You'll need:

An old T-shirt and a pair of scissors. You can also use a needle and thread or sewing machine for a stronger finish.



1. Lay the T-shirt flat.
Smooth out any wrinkles.

2. Remove the sleeves.
Cut carefully along the inside of each sleeve seam. These openings will become the bag handles.

3. Make the opening.
Cut around the neckline to make it larger. Do not cut too close to the shoulders as you need enough fabric for strong handles.

4. Decide how deep you want the bag.
If the T-shirt is very long, trim some fabric from the bottom.

5. Turn the T-shirt inside out.

6. Close the bottom.
Sew all the way across the bottom edge using strong stitches.

7. Turn it back the right way out.

8. Check the handles and seams.

Make sure everything feels secure before putting anything heavy inside.

9. Your tote is ready.

Use it for lightweight shopping, books or everyday bits and pieces.



No-sew option:

Instead of stitching the bottom, cut a row of matching strips or "fringes" along the bottom of the T-shirt and firmly knot the front and back strips together.

A few things to remember

Start with clothes that are **clean and dry**, and choose the strongest parts of the fabric for anything that needs to carry weight. You do not need your finished item to look perfect. The aim is to keep useful material in use for longer and create something you can actually use.

And if an item of clothing is still in good wearable condition, consider whether someone else could use it as clothing before cutting it up.