

How to Make A Feedbag Tote

If you buy large bags of pet food, rock salt, or many other items at the grocery store, you are purchasing packaging that you can re-use once it's empty to make great tote bags for shopping. This is a great re-use re-think kind of project that takes a used material and stops it from ending up in the landfill while creating a robust and durable bag that will be safe to use for years. Given the kind of material the bags are made of, it easily wipes clean, so it is no big deal if a grocery item leaks.

- Flatten the bag.
- Cut the top and the bottom off the bag at the desired location, to make a bag size similar to a brown paper shopping bag.

• Now turn the bag inside out and thoroughly wipe down the "fabric." Allow it to dry thoroughly before sewing.



To make handles:

Using material from the piece cut from the top of the bag, cut two strips off, each 3-inches wide. Cut through each one crosswise to create two long strips. Fold the edges to the center.



Then fold in half again, enclosing the raw edges inside the strap. Use paper clips to hold as pins would leave holes.

Using your sewing machine, you may want to change the needle to a size 16. Next, lengthen your stitch length. If you don't do this, the closer stitching may perforate the bag too closely in a line and weaken the stitching.

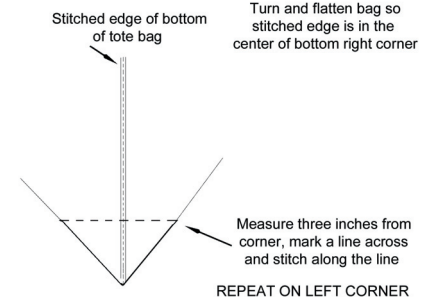
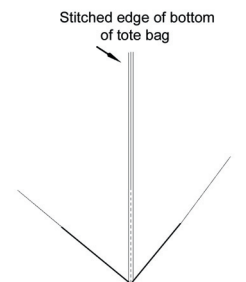
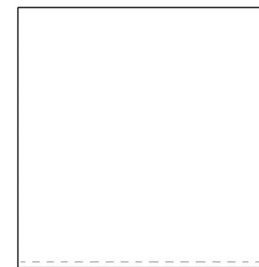


Stitch the handles near the double-folded edge to secure the layers together. Repeat with the other handle.

To make the tote:

With the bag still turned inside out, stitch across the bottom. Fold up that end, and stitch again for strength. Box each corner 3 inches. Squaring the bottom of the bag creates a bag that is easier to pack than a bag that does not have a squared bottom. To make a square bottom:

- Lay the bottom of the bag so it is flat. Then create a triangle corner. (See diagram at right)
- Measure from the tip of the triangle up approximately 3" and sew across the bag. You may want to sew this across the second time for extra strength.



Next, on the inside top, fold the top edge down one inch, then fold again one more inch. Insert the handle under the fold, with each end 3 inches from the center.

Stitch all the way around on the lower edge, and then stitch around the top edge. For extra strength you can sew an 'X' where each of the handles have been placed.

Turn the bag right side out and you are ready to go shopping!

