

MITZVAH DAY ECO PROJECT



Make a paper gift bag out of old newspapers. These can be used for gifts, toys, collections and donations, the Eco-alternative to single use plastic bags



STEPS



1. Get your materials, together, including: 2 sheets of newspaper, scissors, a stapler, a ruler, a pencil and some ribbon or string. You can also gather materials for decorating the bag afterwards such as feathers, glitter, paint, colouring pens, crayons (and don't forget your Mitzvah Day stickers!)

If you would like to make the bag even sturdier, feel free to use some card for the base of the bag.



2. Place the newspaper in front of you on a flat surface. Make sure to place it in 'landscape' (long sides up and down, short sides to the left and right). Fold the top edge of the paper down by 2 inches (5 cm) and sharply crease the fold. Staple this down; this will become the lip of the paper bag, making the bag sturdier. Then flip the newspaper to the other side.



3. Fold the bottom edge of the paper up 2 inches (5 cm) and sharply crease the fold. When you're done, unfold. This end will later become the bottom of the bag. From this, locate the centre points of the top and bottom edges by folding your paper to its centre. Mark the centre of the newspaper with a pencil.





4. Fold the sides of the bag into place. Bring the right edge of the paper to the centre pencil line and fold. Once the fold is properly creased, staple these folds together, then flip the bag over so that it sits staple-side-down.



5. Fold the side-creases inward to create a slight accordion effect. Push the left side-crease of the bag inwards toward the interior of the bag. Try to keep the top and bottom edges symmetrical as you press the paper down. Repeat on the right-hand side. When you're done, the body of the bag should fold inwards on either side just like a paper shopping bag.



6. Prepare the bottom of the bag. To determine which end is the bottom, look for the crease lines you folded previously that mark the bottom of the bag. Fold the bag 4 inches (10 cm) up from the bottom and crease it along this line.

Keeping the rest of the bag flattened, prop open up the bottom of the bag. The inward-flaring creases should pop open, forming a square edge. Inside, you should see a triangle of folded paper on either side.





7. Piece together the bottom of the bag. You will be folding a few sides to the centre, using their triangular shape to ensure the bottom of the bag is evenly put together. Fold the top and bottom sides of the open, square-shaped bottom completely down. Fold the bottom strip upwards towards the centre of the bottom of the bag. The bottom should now be neatly folded shut.



8. Staple the edges where they overlap and pop the bag open. Make sure the bottom is completely closed off and that there are no gaps in the stapled edges. For added flexibility, bend the bag the other way to ensure the bag can stand up.



9. Use a hole puncher or scissors to make 2 holes at the top of your bag. Don't punch your holes too close to the edge of the bag to prevent the handles from breaking.



10. Add your handles. You can use ribbon, rope or string to make the handles or you can leave your bag as is without handles too. Measure 40cm of your chosen material with a ruler and cut this to measure.



11. Slide the ends of your handle string through the holes and make a knot on your handle string on the inside of the bag. Make sure the knot is big enough so it doesn't slide through the hole; you may have to tie another knot over the existing knot to increase its size.

You have finished, well done! Enjoy your new newspaper bag!

