How to Make Re-usable Veggie Bags

This free How To tip sheet was produced by the Cheapskates Club – www.cheapskates.com.au

We have become very used to using fabric grocery bags in the last few years but we are still using millions of veggie bags each year. Even if we re-use them over and over they still end up in landfill and they take a very long time to breakdown. If they end up in our waterways the potential damage is even worse. A solution is to use fabric veggie bags and keep a supply on hand, just as we do with the grocery bags.

I've made mine out of tulle that I had in the cupboard, left over from our fairy party days and just waiting for another use. You can use any light weight, sheer fabric. Remember, it has to be light weight, as it will add to the cost of your produce if it is too heavy. You can use old sheer curtaining (pick up a curtain or two at the op shop or a garage sale if you don't have any) or lace if you have it.

To make a veggie bag you will need:

Sheer, light weight fabric measuring 70cm x 50cm – use light tulle, lightweight curtains, nylon etc 1.5 metres of ribbon or strong twine

- Cut the tulle into a rectangle measuring 70cm x 50cm
- Fold in half widthways your rectangle should measure 35cm x 50cm
- Measure down 2.5cm from top edge on both sides and mark with a pin
- Stitch down first side, starting at pin, and along the bottom to the fold.
- Turn bag inside out.
- Starting at the pin, stitch around the bag again, this time along the seam. This will strengthen the seams and make the bag a little stronger.
- Make the casing for the ribbon by turning the top edge down 2.5cm and stitching in place.
- This makes a casing on the top of the bag.
- Thread the ribbon through the casing, leaving a length at each end. Knot the ends together. To close the bag, pull up the ribbon and tie a slip knot.
- This makes a bag a little larger than a large plastic veggie bag, perfect for family sized quantities
 of fruit and vegetables.

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