

SCIENCE

FROM HOME



DIY Beeswax Wrap

Plastic pollution is clogging up our oceans. One way to reduce the amount of plastic we use is to find an alternative to plastic containers or lunch bags. Try making these beeswax wraps with your family so that you can use less plastic.

Know before you begin

- This activity can be done inside
- Most supplies are easy to find
- Adult supervision is required
- Please choose a safe space to play

Materials

- Pre-washed cotton fabric
- Cardstock (optional)
- Fabric Markers (optional)
- Painters tape
- Pinking shears
- Stencils (optional)
- Parchment Paper
- Beeswax beads or pellets
- Iron (cotton setting)
- Ironing Board

Instructions

Pre-Activity Preparation

- Wash and dry fabric
- Use pinking shears to cut pieces measuring 11 inches square

Color your cloth (Optional)

- Use tape to secure your piece of cloth to the manila folder. Tape close to the edge so you will be able to color the maximum area of your cloth. Use small pieces of tape rather than taping the entire edge.
- Use non-toxic markers and stencils to color and personalize your fabric.

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- Remove the tape. Pull tape from the middle of the cloth toward the outside to prevent fraying.
- Check the edges of your cloth to see if any areas need to be re-trimmed. Use the pinking shears to re-trim frayed areas of your cloth as needed.

Infuse your cloth with beeswax (You will need adult assistance.)

- Tape one piece of parchment paper to the ironing board.
- Place your cloth on the parchment paper. Note: Parchment paper should measure 15 inches square.
- Sprinkle 1/3 cup beeswax pellets on the cloth.
- Cover your cloth and beeswax with a second piece of parchment paper.
- Iron (on the cotton setting) gently over the top of the parchment paper. Make sure that wax is melted into all areas of your cloth. Note: It is better to have too much wax than not enough. If there is not enough wax, liquids will pass through the cloth. If there is too much wax (i.e., globs of wax), you can use an extra cloth to soak up some excess wax. Lay the next cloth on top, replace the parchment paper and iron gently until the original cloth has a nice amount of wax.
- Iron gently until the beeswax is melted.
- Remove the parchment paper.
- Wait a few moments for the cloth to cool enough to touch.
- Gently remove the cloth, and hang your cloth to finish cooling.
- Start using your Beeswax wrap!

Inspiration for this activity comes from <http://manoa.hawaii.edu/sealearning/grade-5-earth-science-topic-3-activity>