

Homemade Beeswax Wrappers



Beeswax food wraps are easy to make, and you can customize them to fit your food storage needs

Choose a fabric you like and use pinking shears to cut it into the desired size and shape. When choosing shapes, think about what you'll be using the wrap for; circular wraps work best for covering stored leftovers in the fridge, while square or rectangular pieces make it easy to wrap up a sandwich for lunch.

Be sure to cut the fabric a few inches larger than the surface you want to cover; if you're covering a bowl that's 6 inches in diameter, an 8-inch circle is recommended. Fabric scraps or recycled material as suggested for the pot covers are ideal for this project.

Adding a layer of beeswax to your wraps will give the fabric a naturally water-resistant coating that won't absorb food or moisture. Adding pine resin and jojoba oil to the beeswax helps the wraps stay flexible and stick together or to food containers. All are available individually or as pre mixed bars which can be purchased from specialist retailers and also on ebay at <https://www.ebay.co.uk/itm/224427591192>. if you are not feeling quite so creative, Skopa in Wirksworth sell ready made wraps. (www.skopazerowasteplace.co.uk) and if there was enough local interest they may be able to source the bars or ingredients as well.

Back to making the wrappers: Melt ingredients in a jam jar in a saucepan of water. Whilst you're waiting for the mixture to melt together, heat your oven to 140°C and line an old baking tray with non-stick baking paper. Once the mixture is ready, place a fabric square on the baking tray and heat in the oven for 2 minutes. Keep the mixture in the bain-marie to ensure it stays melted. Use a paintbrush to brush the mixture onto your heated wrap. You do not need a thick coat of wax, just enough to permeate the fabric. Place back in the oven for one minute to melt the mixture and brush again to ensure that the wrap is evenly covered. Hang your drying wraps on a piece of string with pegs – be aware that the drying mixture will transfer onto the string and pegs. Put some newspaper underneath to catch any drips. The wraps should dry completely within 2-3 minutes! Wipe clean after use, washing in warm water will melt the wax!



Banish Single Use Plastic from Your Kitchen

3 Ways to avoid cling film

All of the following are reusable, can be wiped after use and placed in the washing machine for a good wash periodically. I have had my pot covers for over a year now and they are still going strong, I have not bought cling film in all that time!

1. Pot Covers



A single layer fabric or vinyl or double layer fabric and vinyl covers.

1 Cut out a circle of fabric about 1 inch larger than the bowl you wish to cover. Use fabric scraps or recycle cotton shirts, blouses, tea towels, pillow cases, plastic packaging etc, anything clean and suitable! Hem around edge to make a casing for the elastic leaving an opening of about 1 inch. Thread ¼ inch elastic through using a safety pin pull fairly tight and fasten. Close the gap

Pot covers continued ..



2 Use same instructions to make a vinyl cover or try it with a piece of plastic shower curtain.

3 For the double layer version cut circles from each type of material place together with right side of the fabric and plastic side of the vinyl facing. Stitch together leaving a 2 inch gap. Turn right sides out and stitch about $\frac{3}{4}$ inch in from the edge to make casing for the elastic and finish as above, closing the gap after threading the elastic.



Food Wraps



Cut a square of fabric and square of vinyl or other plastic material slightly larger than the size required for the finished wrap. Sew together right side of fabric and plastic side of the other piece together leaving a 2 inch gap for turning. Turn right sides out. Top stitch around closing the gap as you go. Add squares of velcro at opposite corners to fasten. Can be used for sandwiches and wrapping food for storage in the fridge or how about wrapping a damp cloth to take on picnics instead of wet wipes?

Reusable Snack Pockets



Cut 2 pieces of outer fabric fabric 20 x 16 cm.
Cut 2 pieces vinyl or plastic material 20 x 16cm.

With right sides together, sew one outer piece and one-liner piece together along one of the long sides. This is one bag unit. Repeat with the remaining two pieces.



Open two bag units and stack, right sides together, matching the fabrics (outer above outer, liner) above.



Sew along perimeter of the stacked units, leaving approximately 2 inches open on the outer fabric portion. (Having the opening at the bottom will show the least.)

Turn piece right side out through the open seam. Use fingers or a chopstick to complete corner turns.

Tuck liner into bag and shape as needed.

Finger-press the top edge where the two fabrics are joined. Measure the top edge and cut self adhesive velcro to fit and apply to inner edges of pocket.

Sew bottom seam closed.

To clean the reusable snack bags, gently wipe the inside with warm soapy water and let dry.