

Brooke's Bag

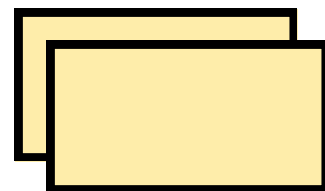
1 in 4 menstruating girls miss school because they don't have access to feminine hygiene products. 1 in 5 students (boys and girls) face hygiene insecurity in the USA - they struggle with access to soap, deodorant, and dental hygiene products. Brooke's Bag is a project designed to support students with dignity in receiving those basic needs.

Supplies You Need:

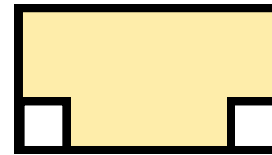
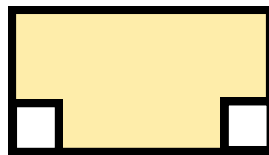
- 1 FAT Eight Exterior
- 1 FAT Eight Interior
- 1 fat 8 Lightweight interfacing



Cut 2 Rectangles for the exterior fabric of the bag 10x8 and the same for the interior

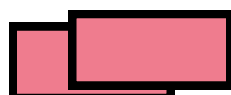


Interfacing or Fusible Fleece is optional on this project. If using interfacing adhere it to the backside of the exterior fabric after cutting your rectangle.



Cut a 2"x2" square out of the bottom corner of each of the fabrics.

Cut 2 pieces of exterior fabric the same size as the width of zipper x 2"



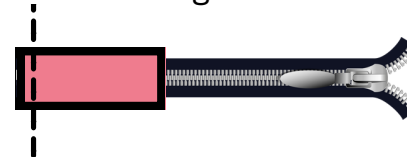
Trim zipper to the length of your bag - to 8- 9"

Place the first piece pretty side up underneath the zipper. Place the second fabric pretty side down.

Fold zipper tabs back so pretty side is up and finger press them. Next stitch a quilt top stitch across the top.

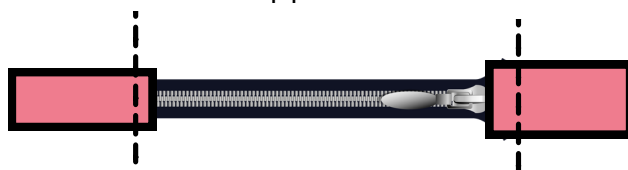


Tabs are Pretty side to pretty side. Use a clip to hold in place. Stitch $\frac{1}{4}$ from the edge.

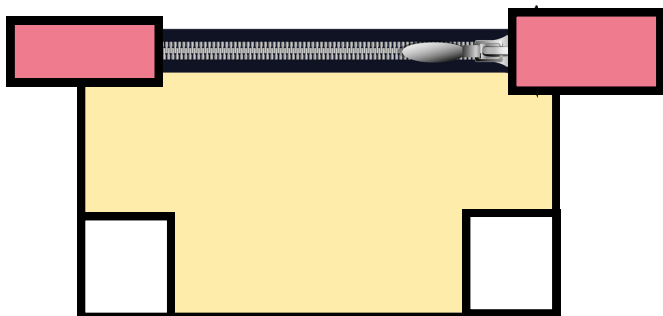


Stitch $\frac{1}{4}$ from the edge.

Repeat for the other side of the zipper. Pull the zipper pull into the center before sewing on the zipper tab.



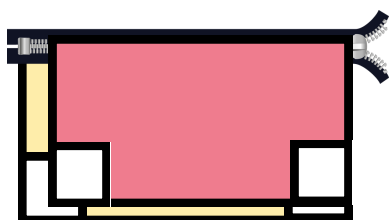
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Put the Lining pretty side up.

Lay the zipper - zipper pull side up on top of the top long edge of the lining. The zipper tabs will hang over the edge a bit. You can trim them.

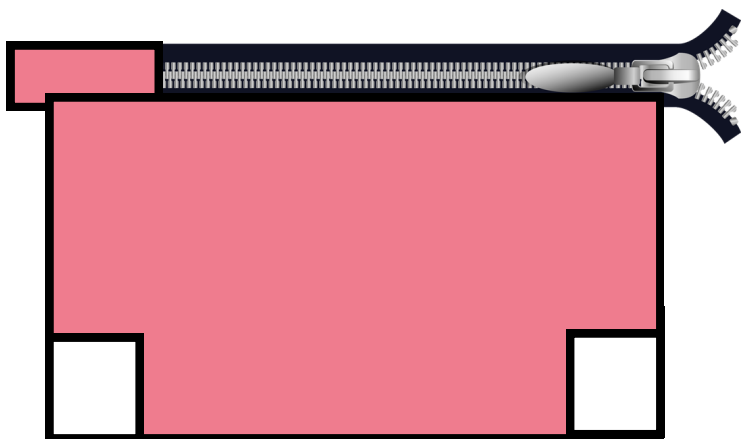
Optional: Use basting tape. Secure a piece of basting tape to the lining. Before you pull off the protective strip on top. Press it with your iron then remove the top sticker cover. attach the zipper to it.



Lay the Exterior bag pretty side down on top of the zipper lining up the long edge with the top edge of the zipper and the lining. The top fabric will fully cover the bottom fabric.

Optional: Use basting tape. Put another piece of basting tape to the top edge of the front of the zipper. Press it before you remove the protective strip. Remove the protective strip and attach the exterior fabric pretty side down.

Stitch to secure fabric to the zipper. If you have a zipper foot, attach the zipper foot to your sewing machine so the needle can stitch very close to the zipper teeth without hitting them. Position the zipper under the foot and align the edge so the needle runs right beside the teeth, adjusting the needle position if needed. Sew slowly, keeping the fabric flat and moving the zipper pull out of the way as you go for a smooth, even stitch.

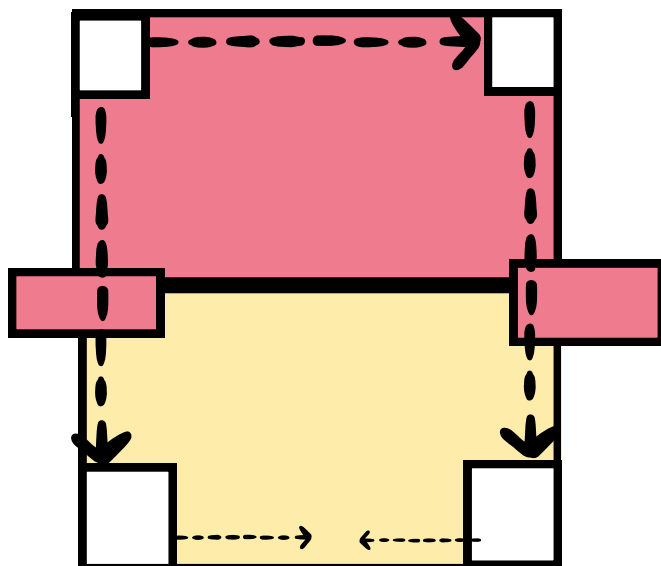


Fold back the two fabrics and line them up. Use an iron to press it flat. Top stitch it.

Rinse wash repeat for the opposite side. It will look like four pieces of fabric sewed to a zipper when you are done.

Take a little break at this point - eat some m&ms and have a cup of coffee.

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Put the two exterior rectangles pretty side to pretty side. Do the same for the interior rectangles. The zipper will be inside so make sure that the zipper pull is pulled to the middle.

Stitch the long edges and do not stitch the corner cut outs.

At the base of the interior lining leave a pull through hole of ~2".

Before you turn your bag. Open the corner and bring the side seam and bottom seam together so they align, forming a straight line. Flatten the corner and pin or clip in place, making sure the seams match up neatly. Sew straight across that edge using your seam allowance (typically 1/4") to create the boxed corner.

Turn bag right side out using the pull through hole. To close the hole fold in the raw edges and press. Stitch with your sewing machine across it or using a hand stitch.

Your bag will be able to hold ~30 tampons or sanitary pads. If you are filling with hygiene products we recommend a stick of deodorant, bar of soap, toothbrush, and small toothpaste. The goal of the Brooke's bag is to provide dignity in the face of need. Provide hope to someone who may have lost it. Thank you for participating with us in this project.

If you would like to donate your finished bag to our initiative - we will fill them and send them to our partner school districts and support centers.

Brooke's bags can be sent to
The Barn (Attn Brooke's Bag) 210 W. Walnut Raymore, MO 634083.