

How To Make Mitzvah Bags At Home

For many years, HNT volunteers have assembled thousands of Mitzvah Bags to keep in our cars to give out to those in need on the street for some sustenance as well as information about available homelessness services. While we can't gather to assemble bags this year, we encourage you to assemble bags at home to give out yourself if you feel comfortable and safe doing so.

What You'll Need

You can use this suggested list or add other items. We have included links for easy online shopping, but you can of course purchase these items from wherever you like to shop.

- [Quart-size Storage Bags](#)
 - We recommend making a test bag to make sure all items fit
 - Tip: we've found that Up & Up bags are *slightly* larger than Ziplock
- [Cheese and/or Peanut Butter Sandwich Crackers](#)
- [Soft granola bars](#)
- [Apple sauce](#) (pouches only)
- [Hand Sanitizer](#) or [Handwipes](#)
- [Handwarmers](#)
- [Socks](#)
- [Lip balm](#)
- [Facemask](#)
- [Juice](#) (pouches only)

How to Make Labels

- Download labels at this link: <https://h-nt.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/Mitzvah-Bag-Labels-with-Services-At-Home.docx>
 - You may edit the text or personalize if you wish.
 - These labels contain information about available services on the eastside. If you would primarily give bags out elsewhere, consider providing contact details for local shelters.
- You can either purchase printable shipping labels – 8 per page, like [Avery 5395](#) – to stick to the outside of the bags, OR use regular printer paper and cut these out to slip into the bags

Make This A New Holiday Tradition!

Even if you can't gather for the holidays, you can still do this project together with your extended family. Here's how:

1. Decide how many Mitzvah Bags each household will make
2. Assign each household one or more items to purchase (consider cost of each when assigning)
3. Each household can shop online for their assigned item(s), and ship one or more boxes to themselves and each household participating – be sure to check the quantities to make sure they are close to the number of bags you're making!
4. Every household should end up with enough supplies to assemble complete bags
5. Choose a day/time (with enough time for all items to arrive) and assemble your bags while on Zoom with the whole family!