

Kiwanis Recycle Project: Crocheting Plastic Mats from Plarn

Project: Crochet sleeping mats for the local organization Street Teens.

- Mats intended for teens less fortunate that have no place to sleep at night
- Mats create a barrier between ground and body
- Mats can be easily washed and dried; bugs are not attracted to them
- Each mat keeps an estimated 800-1000 bags out of our landfills

How is plarn made?

- There are many sites on the internet (many contain videos). Simply type “plarn” into your search engine or YouTube. There are many different suggestions for how to create plarn.
- See attached sheet for an overview of our method.

Facts about our mats

- Each mat is unique. In general they have measurements of 30 – 36 inches wide and 5.5 to 6 feet long.
- The number of bags used varies—it is estimated that 700 – 1000 bags will be used, depending on the unique design.
- The project shown to the right will use approximately 900 bags.
- Time spent is also variable: some estimates are as high as 100 hours to complete a mat. We are estimating the mat pictured will have taken approximately 65-79 hours to complete.



Past Projects/Future Projects

Here are a few pictures of past projects. Take a look at a possible future project using plarn to make water bottle carriers!



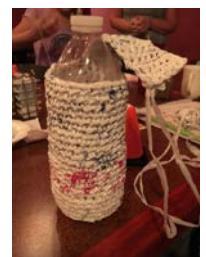
Our first mat project starting point.



Completed mats presented to Street Teens at past K-1 Day.



Completed mat!



Our next project: water bottle carriers.

Steps to Creating Plarn



1. Start recycling project with plastic bag



2. Flatten bag (back to original shape)



3. Fold in half, lengthwise



4. Fold bag in half again



5. Fold bag back in half one more time



6. Cut off both ends, discard the handles & bottom



7. Cut folded bag in half



8. Unfold the two pieces creating two loops



9. Knot both loops together to form a single strand



10. Roll the strand into a ball called "Plarn"



11. Crochet as you would with yarn



12. A sleeping mat nearing completion!