

POST OPERATIVE MASTECTOMY DRAIN BAGS

The drain bag provides a practical carrier for the drainage bottle (reservoir) as well as excess tubing for the post-operative mastectomy patient. There is a valve so fluids cannot re-enter the wound. This bag is worn above the waist to prevent drag on the wound.

MATERIALS.

BAG: 4 Rectangles of cotton fabric 12" x 10 ½ inches *to make a reversible bag.*

ADJUSTABLE STRAP: 3 ½" X 60"

Loop: 1 strip of cotton fabric 3 ½" X 5 ½"

All seam allowances are 1/4"

THE STRAP goes diagonally over the shoulder and is then threaded through the loop on the bag and tied, making an adjustable strap. The drain bottle fits in the bag with the excess tubing

To make the bag:

1. Place fabric right sides together and sew side and lower seams of the inner and outer layers. Leave a 6" opening in one side seam of the lining.
2. To make the Loop: Fold Loop fabric in half and sew along the long edge. Turn to right side. Press.
3. Fold Loop in half and position raw edges together over one side seam. Stitch in place.
4. Fold strap in half a sew along the long edge. Turn to right side. Press. Tuck seam allowance in at one end of strap and stitch.
5. Position strap over other side seam, stitch in place.
6. With right sides together insert the outer layer into lining. Sew around the top of the of the bag. Reinforce the strap and the loop with extra stitching.
7. Turn bag to right side through opening left in one side seam. Top stitch opening closed.
8. Push lining into bag. Top stitch around top edge.

Notes:

1. Fabric must be washable. Cotton or a lightweight cotton furnishing fabric for the outer layer is best.
2. Attractive fabric should be used so the bags can be worn over clothing if desired.
3. A single mastectomy will require 1 bag and a double mastectomy will need 2 bags.
4. The bags need to be made from clean fabric or carefully washed as these patients are often immune compromised.