

GRANNY PLANTS

Reusable Unpaper Towels

a sewing pattern, no snaps required

What's inside:

- Materials list & cutting dimensions
- Step-by-step sewing instructions
- The interfold trick that makes them cling like a real roll
- Care instructions

Beginner-friendly. No pattern paper needed — just a ruler and straight lines.

Materials

Enough for one full roll (about 12 sheets)

- 1 yard cotton flannel (for the front of each sheet)
- 1 yard cotton flannel, contrasting or matching (for the back)
- Matching all-purpose thread
- Sewing machine with a zigzag stitch
- Fabric scissors or a rotary cutter, ruler, and cutting mat
- Iron and ironing board
- Pins or fabric clips
- 1 empty cardboard tube, saved from a used paper towel roll

Cutting

Cut 12 rectangles from each flannel (24 total)

Sheet size: 11" x 12"

This is close to the size of a standard paper towel sheet. Cut 12 rectangles from your front flannel and 12 from your back flannel, for 12 finished double-layer sheets.

Tip: a rotary cutter and clear quilting ruler make quick, straight work of this — no need to pin a paper pattern down first, just measure and cut directly on the fabric.

Sewing Each Sheet

- 1 Pair up your rectangles**
Place one front and one back rectangle wrong sides together (raw edges matching, patterns facing out). Pin or clip in place around all four sides.
- 2 Press**
Give the paired rectangle a quick press with the iron so the layers sit flat and won't shift while you sew.
- 3 Zigzag the edges**
Sew around all four sides with a wide zigzag stitch, about 1/4 inch from the raw edge. This seals the two layers together and keeps the flannel from fraying — no need to turn it right-side out first.
- 4 Trim stray threads**
Snip any loose threads and give the finished sheet a final press.
- 5 Repeat**
Repeat for all 12 sheet pairs.

Assembling Into a Roll

The trick that makes them cling like real paper towels

- 1 Interfold the sheets**
Fold your first sheet in half. Take your second sheet and tuck one folded edge through the fold of the first sheet, then fold the second sheet in half around it — the same way tissues in a box are interfolded so pulling one brings the next one up.
- 2 Chain them all together**
Continue interfolding each new sheet through the last, one at a time, until all 12 sheets form one connected accordion chain.
- 3 Roll around the tube**
Starting from one end, roll the whole interfolded chain snugly around your saved cardboard tube. The flannel's natural texture grips against itself enough to hold the roll shape.
- 4 Load and use**
Set the roll on your paper towel holder just like a regular roll. Pull one sheet, and the interfolding will draw the next sheet partway up, ready to grab.

Care

Toss used sheets in with your regular laundry. Machine wash and tumble dry or line dry — no special care needed. Re-interfold and re-roll once dry.