

## **Instructions: Create a Luminary**

A luminary, often a term for a light source or a person who inspires, can also refer to a handmade decorative lantern. Here's a guide to creating a simple, classic paper bag luminary, often used for festive occasions or pathways.

### **Materials Needed:**

1. Paper bags (brown or white) [Amazon Luminary Bags](#)
2. Sand or small pebbles
3. LED tea light candles or battery-operated candles (for safety)
4. Scissors or a craft knife
5. A pencil and a stencil (optional)
6. Ruler (optional, for precise cuts)
7. Decorative materials like colored paper, glue, glitter, etc. (optional)

### **Instructions:**

#### **1. Prepare the Paper Bag:**

- Choose the size and color of the paper bags you want to use. Brown bags provide a classic look, while white bags may emit more light.

#### **2. Create a Design:**

- Draw a design on the front side of the paper bag with a pencil. Simple shapes like stars, hearts, or geometric patterns work well.
- If you want to be more precise, use a stencil or ruler.

#### **3. Cut Out the Design:**

- Carefully cut out your design using scissors or a craft knife. If you're using a craft knife, place a cutting mat underneath to protect your work surface.
- Ensure the cut-out shapes are evenly spaced and look good when light shines through them.

#### **4. Add Decorative Elements (Optional):**

- You can decorate the outside of the bag with glitter, colored paper, or paint for added flair.

#### **5. Add Weight to the Bag:**

- Fill the bottom of the paper bag with about 1-2 inches of sand or small pebbles. This will keep the bag in place and prevent it from blowing away in the wind.

#### **6. Place the Light Source:**

- Put an LED tea light or battery-operated candle inside the bag. Do not use real candles, as they pose a fire risk when placed in paper bags.

#### **7. Arrange and Light Up:**

- Place your luminaries along a path, driveway, or garden. Turn on the LED lights to illuminate the cut-out designs.

#### **Tips for Safety:**

- **Avoid real candles** to prevent fire hazards.
- **Secure the bags** if you're placing them outdoors in windy conditions. You can use additional sand or pebbles to weigh them down.