



Plastic Bags ?



Use it? Shun it? Ban it? Refuse? Reuse? Repurpose? Recycle? Use reusable bags?

You have a choice. Please choose responsibly !



A few facts about Plastic Bags

- Worldwide, consumers use an estimated 1 trillion plastic bags each year—nearly 2 million a minute—with the use time of a typical bag just 12 minutes. 90% of all grocery bags used are plastic.
- Plastic bags have been used as “baggies” and sandwich bags since 1957; dry-cleaning bags since 1958; bread packaging since the mid-1960s; produce bags in grocery stores since 1969; merchandise bags at major department stores since 1974; grocery bags at the “check-out” since 1977.
- Common “RE-USES” for plastic bags are as carry bags, storage, trash can liners, pet-waste pick up, packaging/stuffing material to protect fragiles, protecting valuables from rain and snow, protecting water and gas lines in winter, and keeping clothing dry on boating trips or camping or when umbrellas are not at hand.
- 12 percent of waste in landfills is plastic and half of that is plastic bags and films.
- It’s not sure how long a plastic bag takes to decompose, but estimates range from 500 to 1,000 years. Even then, they never fully biodegrade; they just break down into ever-tinier plastic pellets.
- Plastic bags, wraps and film can’t be recycled through curbside Single Stream Recycling. They require a different collection system and processing equipment.
- Recycling for plastic bags is available at U.S. supermarkets since 1992. More than 18,000 retail locations across the country - such as large grocery chains, home improvement stores, Walmart, Target, etc. - provide collection bins for these plastic bags/wraps/films which are usually located in the storefront close to the main entrance.
- Americans discard about 33.6 million tons of plastic each year, but only 6.5 percent of it is recycled and 7.7 percent is combusted in waste-to-energy facilities, which create electricity or heat from garbage.
- Bags can be recycled into plastic “lumber” (for backyard decking, fences), planters for gardening, playground equipment, pipes, new plastic bags, & other products.
- It’s of utmost importance that plastic bags are disposed of properly. Otherwise, they create harmful debris & unsightly litter. Thousands of whales, birds, seals, and turtles die each year after becoming entangled with bags or mistaking them for food.
- *A paper bag must be used 3 times before its global warming impact is lower than a single-use plastic bag. A standard cotton tote requires 131 uses before its global warming impact is less than a plastic bag.*

Reusable bags with minimal energy impact ? Repurpose fabrics ? Sewing notions ?



To landfill ?



Maybe not ! Instead



and



Voila ! You get Reusable Bags made from Recycled Fabrics !!

AND with minimal additional ENERGY FOOTPRINT



Saves landfill space

Saves perfectly good material from destruction

Reduces global warming impact of the fabrics already produced

Reduces the number of uses required of a cloth tote to be energy neutral

Use of reusable bags made from recycled fabric is an innovative choice presented to you by

Chesterfield Citizens' Committee for Environment & Charity-Sharity !



Please donate clean fabric and unused sewing notions at Earth Day and at America Recycles Day in Chesterfield MO



You have a choice. Please use it responsibly !