

YOU Make a Difference!

RETHINK WASTE

Do you REALLY need a bag? If you're buying just a couple of items hand-carry them out.

- Change can be scary. Help friends and neighbors remember reusable bags.
- Take the time to personally thank cash register clerks for helping to make our community less wasteful and litter free!



REFUSE TO WASTE

- BYOB- Bring your own bags.
- Forget your bags in the car? NO PROBLEM! Use the shopping cart to carry items, then place them into the bags waiting in your car.
- Keep reusable bags in your car at all times for unplanned purchases.

REDUCE THE WASTE

- Place as many items as possible in each bag.
- Avoid putting large bulky items, like milk, toilet paper, detergents or diapers into bags.

REUSE AGAIN & AGAIN

- Give the gift that keeps on giving - **REUSABLE BAGS.**



Want to Learn More?

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Waste Management Authority
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www.iwma.com



Printed on recycled paper

Shifting to Reusable Bags

Information for Consumers



*Kick the Single-Use
Bag Habit
Bring Your Own*



Beginning October 1, 2012 stores will stop providing single-use plastic carryout bags to customers at the point of sale. A store may provide to a customer (at their request) a recyclable paper bag, but will charge the customer a minimum of 10 cents per paper bag. The charge reimburses the store for the costs of providing the paper bag. To avoid this charge and to help the environment, bring in a reusable bag!

Product Bags used to carry meat, produce, bulk food or pharmacy prescriptions within a store to the point of sale will still be available.

Benefits of Reusable Bags

- They can be used over and over for years.
- Over that lifetime, reusable bags eliminate the need for upwards of 1,000 or more single-use bags.



- They use less energy in production and produce less carbon dioxide.
- They reduce solid waste disposal costs by reducing the municipal waste and landfill burden.
- They do not threaten our oceans, streams, lakes, marine life or clog sewers and drains.
- They do not litter our beaches, cities, roadsides and open spaces.

Know the Hidden Co\$ts of Single-Use Bags

- San Luis Obispo County consumers use 130 million carryout plastic bags annually.
- In California less than 5% of plastic bags are recycled.
- On average the "free" single-use plastic bag is used for 12 minutes before being discarded.



- Plastic bags litter our beaches, cities, streets, highways, streams, sewers and storm drains.
- Studies have found that in specific areas of the Pacific Ocean 92% of seabirds and 35% of fish had plastic pieces in their stomachs.
- Paper bags use even more energy to produce and transport than plastic bags.
- Paper bags generate air and water pollution when manufactured.
- Both plastic and paper bags add to municipal waste collection and landfill costs, which are passed on to citizens through landfill tipping fees and municipal waste collection charges.
- Single-use bags are not "free". The cost of the bag is included in the items you purchase, whether you use the bag or not.

