



THE BETTER BAG GUIDE

YOUR INDISPENSIBLE GUIDE TO SINGLE AND MULTIPLE USE BAG TYPES, RANKED IN ORDER OF **MOST TO LEAST** SUSTAINABLE OR MINDFUL TO THE ENVIRONMENT. YOUR BEST BET IS TO USE HARDWEARING BAGS OR BASKETS THAT WILL LAST YOU MANY YEARS. **NO EXCUSE FOR SINGLE USE!**

BAG TYPE

ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS

DOWN SIDES



CANE BASKET
or canvas trolley



Highly durable
Can be reused for many years

BOOMERANG BAG
Made from fabric waste
www.boomerangbags.org



Can be reused for many years
Uses material that would otherwise become waste

May need to be washed occasionally, consuming water, energy & detergent

HEMP OR SILK BAG



Can be reused for many years
Made from a low-impact renewable material

May need to be washed occasionally, consuming water, energy & detergent

REUSABLE BAG
Made from polypropylene or PET plastic



Can be reused for many years
Can be recycled through supermarket *soft plastic* collections*

Made from a non-renewable resource (gas or oil)
May need to be washed occasionally

REUSABLE BAG
Made from cotton



Can be reused for many years
Made from a renewable material

Growing cotton uses a lot of water and chemicals
Non-recyclable
May need to be washed occasionally

POLYETHENE BAG
Made from plastic



Can be reused 10-20 times
Can be recycled through supermarket *soft plastic* collections*

Made from a non-renewable resource (gas or oil), hazardous to wildlife if littered

PAPER BAG
Recycled/recyclable



Made from a renewable material
Can be recycled in your kerbside recycling bin

Can only be reused a few times (will tear with too much weight or moisture)
Paper manufacturing uses a lot of energy, water and chemicals

SINGLE USE BAG
COMPOSTABLE



Made from a (generally) renewable material
Can be composted in a commercial composting facility

Not accepted in most green waste bins
Composting loses resource value compared to recycling

SINGLE USE BAG
OXO-DEGRADABLE



Will eventually degrade

Made from a non-renewable resource (gas or oil) with an additive to improve degradability. Doesn't meet Australian composting standards. No benefit in landfill

SINGLE USE PLASTIC
CHECKOUT BAG



Can be recycled through supermarket *soft plastic* collections*

Made from a non-renewable resource, hazardous to wildlife if littered, wasteful use of resources



* <http://redcycle.net.au/redcycle/how-to-redcycle>