

Plastic Bags Break Easily



Have you ever filled a plastic bag at the grocery store, and then it broke on your way home? Plastic bags are not very **sturdy**; they can break easily.

When food falls out of plastic bags, it can get dirty or ruined. To make plastic bags more sturdy, people often use two bags at a time. This means that even more plastic bags end up in the trash when people are finished using them!



https://www.biologicaldiversity.org/programs/population_and_sustainability/sustainability/plastic_bag_facts.html

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Plastic Bags Make More Trash

When plastic bags break, we throw them in the trash.

Landfills, the places where we dump our trash, are full of plastic trash bags and full of old, broken, plastic bags. It



takes more than 500 years for plastic bags to break down into tiny pieces that become part of the soil.

Sometimes plastic bags blow out of landfills or trash cans onto our land and into our water.



<https://harmony1.com/4-ways-to-reduce-the-waste-of-plastic-bags/>

<https://ctmirror.org/2019/02/28/plastic-bags-emerge-as-a-state-environmental-and-revenue-issue/>

https://www.biologicaldiversity.org/programs/population_and_sustainability/sustainability/plastic_bag_facts.html

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Plastic Bags are Dangerous to Sea Animals

When plastic bags end up in our oceans, they can hurt animals. Plastic bags can get stuck on sea creatures so that they cannot swim correctly.

Sometimes animals get confused and think that plastic bags are food. Ocean animals can die if they eat plastic bags.



Sea turtles eat jellyfish, and a plastic bag can

look like a jellyfish. 100,000 sea animals die every year because of plastic in the ocean!



<http://www.thebluereporters.com/2017/04/macro-litter-pollution-plastic-bags-marine-mammals/>

https://www.biologicaldiversity.org/programs/population_and_sustainability/sustainability/plastic_bag_facts.html

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Use Paper Bags Instead of Plastic Bags

At the grocery store, ask for a paper bag instead of a plastic one. Paper bags can easily be reused, especially for art projects. We can also cut and decorate a paper bag to make wrapping paper for gifts.



One big difference between paper bags and plastic bags is that you can recycle paper bags in order to make more paper! Paper comes from trees. We can save trees by recycling paper bags instead of cutting down more trees.



<https://www.treehugger.com/natural-sciences/trees-talk-each-other-and-recognize-their-offspring.html>

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Use Reusable Bags!



Reusable bags made from fabric are great for carrying groceries. They do not break easily, even when they carry heavy things like milk. They can last many years. Some reusable bags are made from natural fabrics, like cotton or calico, and others are made from plastic-based fabrics like nylon.

You can use reusable bags for lots of purposes. You can use them to carry your lunch to school or work, clothing on a trip, books to the library, or anything else!



<https://totebagfactory.com/blogs/news/8-reasons-you-should-use-reusable-grocery-bags>