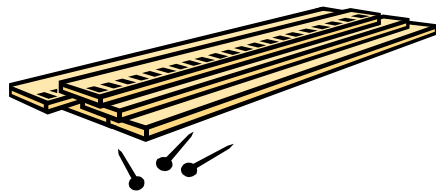


## BAG RECYCLING INFO

### *What Happens to Plastic Bags?*

Most plastic bags and plastic films are recycled into outdoor furniture, decking and railing materials for homes and businesses. Approximately 2,250 plastic bags go into one typical 16-foot decking board!



### *What About Paper Bags?*

Paper shopping bags are recycled and used in the manufacturing of new grocery bags and cardboard boxes.

## RESOURCES

Find a Plastic Bag Recycling  
Drop-Off Location

[www.plasticbagrecycling.org](http://www.plasticbagrecycling.org)

Massachusetts Department of  
Environmental Protection

[www.mass.gov/dep/recycle](http://www.mass.gov/dep/recycle)

Massachusetts Food Association

[www.mafood.com](http://www.mafood.com)



**MassDEP**

Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection

1 Winter Street  
Boston, MA 02108  
Phone: 617-654-6580

# SACK THE BAG!



**MASSACHUSETTS  
CONSUMERS:**

**USE FEWER  
DISPOSABLE  
SHOPPING BAGS!**

DISTRIBUTED BY



**MassDEP**

Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection



**MASSACHUSETTS FOOD ASSOCIATION**

# DISPOSABLE SHOPPING BAGS: PROBLEMS &



**D**isposable shopping bags contribute to a variety of economic, environmental, health and safety problems. They:

- Waste natural resources
- Clog our landfills
- Create litter in our communities
- And, endanger animals through ingestion and strangulation

**Cutting down on the use of disposable bags simply makes sense!**

## WHAT'S BEING DONE

In March 2009, the Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) and Massachusetts Food Association (MFA) set a mutual goal of reducing by one-third the number of paper and plastic shopping bags distributed by MFA's 500+ member grocery stores and supermarkets by the year 2013.

To achieve this goal, MFA members have committed to:

- Promoting the use of reusable bags
- Providing in store plastic bag recycling bins for customers
- Offering reusable shopping bags for sale made with recycled content
- Using disposable bags with more recycled content

PLASTIC BAG recycling stations at grocery stores and supermarkets accept a wide range of plastic bags, including:

- Grocery bags
- Newspaper bags
- Dry cleaning bags
- Retail shopping bags (with string ties and rigid plastic handles removed)
- Bread, cereal and produce bags
- Plastic wrap from paper products and bulk items

## HOW YOU CAN HELP

First things first: Do you even need a bag? Tell the clerk that you'll carry out your handful of items. Be sure to keep your receipt handy!

### **REDUCE!**

Use disposable shopping bags only when necessary: to keep household soaps and cleaners separate from foodstuffs, for example.

### **REUSE!**

Bring your own canvas, cloth or durable plastic bags. Many grocery stores offer 5¢ or 10¢ off your order when you "bring back the sack."

### **RECYCLE!**

Return unwanted plastic shopping bags to your grocer. Please do not put plastic bags in your curbside recycling bin. However, you may recycle paper shopping bags in your curbside bin or at your community's drop-off recycling center.

