



Bring Your Bag!

As of October 1, 2013, all retail establishments and food providers within the City of Portland are required to be in compliance with the [City of Portland's plastic bag ban](#). According to the City of Portland Bureau of Planning and Sustainability, Oregonians used an estimated 1.7 billion single-use plastic bags each year before the ban on plastic bags.

Whether you are shopping outside of city limits or dealing with a stockpile of old plastic bags, there are still choices you can make to keep plastic bags from polluting the environment. Since a new year is a good time to set new goals and refresh positive habits, here are some facts and tips to help you reduce the consumption of single-use plastic bags:

Repurpose

For those of you who already have a good stockpile of plastic bags at home and are looking for ideas to reuse or repurpose them, you are in luck. There is a plethora of [do-it-yourself ideas](#) online. From arts and crafts to practical projects, finding a use for your extra plastic bags can be fun and sustainable!

Recycle

Not in a crafting mood, but looking to part with some of your extra plastic bags? Check out [Metro's Find a Recycler](#) tool to locate a drop-off location near you.

Choose to Reuse

Potential environmental problems stem from the creation, use and improper disposal of plastic bags. The best way to reduce the use of plastic shopping bags is to invest in reusable cloth bags. One household can eliminate hundreds if not thousands of plastic bags per year by using reusable bags. If you often arrive at the grocery store and realize your bags are still back at the house, here are some tips from the Bureau of Planning and Sustainability to help you remember to bring them:



- Store bags near your house keys or near the door.
- Return bags to your car.
- Write a reminder on your grocery list.
- Keep a bag in your purse or coat pocket. When you find yourself picking up a few items, you'll be prepared with your own bag.

Reusable bags are not only better for the environment, but stronger and more durable than paper or plastic, especially when wet! They can also hold more groceries so you can carry more with fewer bags.