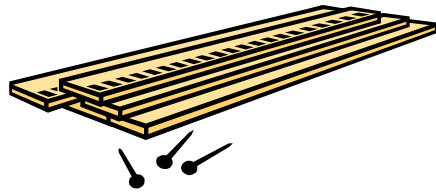


## BAG RECYCLING INFO

### *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!



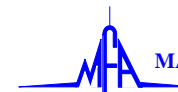
**MASSACHUSETTS  
CONSUMERS:  
USE FEWER  
DISPOSABLE  
SHOPPING BAGS!**

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**MassDEP**

Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection



**MASSACHUSETTS FOOD ASSOCIATION**

# DISPOSABLE SHOPPING BAGS: PROBLEMS & SOLUTIONS



**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 disposal 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. Recycle paper shopping bags through your municipal curbside recycling program or at your community's drop-off recycling center.

