



GreenTip
How Do You Measure Up?

Recycle Your Plastic Grocery Bags!

Did you know that plastic grocery bags are recyclable? Probably. But did you also know that plastic grocery bags CAN NOT be recycled through your curbside or drop-off recycling program???

Plastic grocery bags are among the most widely recycled materials in the United States. But they can't be recycled through a residential recycling collection program. So don't put them into your recycling bin! When plastic bags are mixed with other recyclables, they tend to gum up the works by getting caught in machinery and stuck to other materials. These bags cause contamination that ultimately results in more tonnage being sent to the landfill.

If recycled properly, plastic bags can be made into plastic lumber, shrink wrap packaging or new plastic bags. To ensure that this common but important commodity is recycled properly, save your plastic bags and return them to a grocery or department store that collects them. Most large retailers, including grocery and discount stores, provide bins for the collection of plastic bags that are returned by their customers. Your plastic bags are combined with the large amount of plastic wrappings that encase the pallets of merchandise these stores receive on a daily basis. All of this plastic film material is returned for recycling.

If you take along reusable bags when you shop, then you're already ahead of the game. If you bring home your purchases in plastic bags, consider collecting them throughout the week and returning them to your grocery store the next time you shop. You'll help eliminate unnecessary materials taking up valuable space in our landfills, and also help prevent the visual pollution that results from the accumulation of these bags along highways and in shrubs and trees.

