

Advantages of using cloth bags:

1. They are inexpensive and widely available.
2. Each bag holds two to three times more groceries than a plastic bag, and they don't break or require double-bagging.
3. They are made of hemp, recycled cotton or plastic and do not harm the environment.
4. Retailers actually save money when not forced to buy and distribute single-use HDPE, paper, or compostable paper bags.
5. **By using cloth bags, each one of us could save 432 plastic bags per year!**

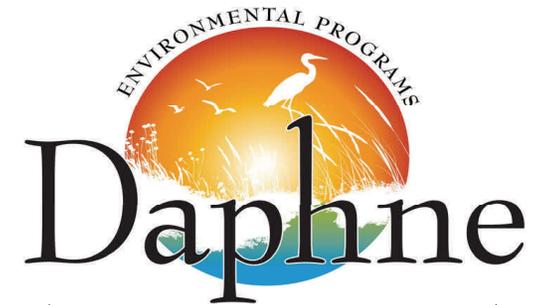


Thanks for protecting the environment .
By "Just Saying No, to Plastic Bags",
you are **Creating a Clean Water Future**
for generations to come.....visit our web-
site at www.cleanwaterfuture.com.

City of Daphne Environmental Programs

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Information compiled from the
Mobile Bay National
Estuary Program



Plastic Bags, Just Say NO!



Reduce, Reuse, Recycle!



Plastic Bags, Just Say No!

The U. S. Environmental Protection Agency estimates that between 500 billion and one trillion single-use, high density, polyethylene (HDPE) plastic bags, like the ones you receive from the grocery store, are added to the global waste stream every year.



- In Mobile & Baldwin Counties, an estimated **143 million** plastic bags were distributed to consumers in 2006.
- An estimated **8 billion pounds** of plastic bags, wraps, and sacks enter the waste stream every year in the U.S. alone, putting a burden on our diminishing landfill space and causing air pollution if incinerated.
- Plastic bags take up to **1000 years** to degrade.
- Between **15 and 30 billion** plastic bags are discarded directly into the world's waters and environments **every year**.

Plastic bags break into smaller pieces and more toxic substances that spread across soils, waters, and bottomlands and find their way into aquatic food chains. Bags kill the birds, fish, mammals, and sea turtles that become entangled or try to eat them. They also spoil the beauty of our coastal environment and they block storm water drains which leads to flooding.

Globally, plastic is found in all the world's oceans from our polar regions to the equator. The Great Pacific Garbage Patch, formed by ocean currents and located in the center of the North Pacific Gyre, is twice the size of Texas.

For more information visit the website:
<http://www.greatgarbagepatch.org/>



Did you know?

Plastic bags are made from oil and/or natural gas. Plastic is a by-product of oil refining and accounts for 4% of the world's total oil production. Not only does this decrease our shrinking oil supply, it also increases our dependence on foreign sources. The

cost of recycling HDPE bags is very expensive-It costs \$4,000 to recycle one ton of single-use plastic bags. The material recovered from this effort is worth \$32 on the commodities market. Consequently, less than one percent of all plastic bags produced are recycled. Even the bags reused for household trash or pet waste ultimately end up in landfills.

What is the solution?

The answer is simple. Using cloth reusable bags is an easy and environmentally friendly alternative to plastic. They don't litter the landscape, fill landfills, clog storm drains, kill marine life, or increase oil demand from the Middle East, Venezuela, or even the Gulf of Mexico. Carrying your own cloth bags to the grocery store is a small way for citizens to make a big difference.



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