

## Better Bag Guide – from best to worst

Type of bag	Environmental benefits	Environmental impacts
Cane basket or trolley 	Highly durable Can be reused for many years	
Reusable hemp or silk bag 	Can be reused for many years Made from a low-impact renewable material	Needs to be washed occasionally, consuming water, energy and detergent
Reusable polypropylene or PET plastic bag 	Can be reused for many years Can be recycled through supermarket 'soft plastic' collections <a href="http://redcycle.net.au/redcycle/how-to-recycle">http://redcycle.net.au/redcycle/how-to-recycle</a>	Made from a non-renewable resource (gas or oil) Needs to be washed occasionally
Reusable cotton bag 	Can be reused for many years Made from a renewable material	Growing cotton uses a lot of water and chemicals Non-recyclable Needs to be washed occasionally
Reusable polyethylene plastic bag 	Can be reused 10-20 times Can be recycled through supermarket 'soft plastic' collections	Made from a non-renewable resource (gas or oil)
Reusable paper bag 	Made from a renewable material Can be recycled in your kerbside recycling bin	Can only be reused a few times (will tear with too much weight or moisture) Paper manufacturing uses a lot of energy, water and chemicals
Single use compostable bag 	Generally made from a renewable material Can be composted at home or in a commercial composting facility	Not accepted in most green waste bins Composting loses resource value compared to recycling
Single use oxo-degradable plastic bag 	Will eventually biodegrade	Made from a non-renewable resource (gas or oil) with an additive to improve degradability Doesn't meet Australian composting standards No benefit in landfill
Single use plastic checkout bag	Can be recycled through supermarket 'soft plastic' or shopping bag collections	Made from a non-renewable resource, hazardous to wildlife if littered, wasteful use of resources