

Paper bags



Biodegradable bags



Reusable bags



Pros

- Degradable in well-run landfill
- Hold more stuff
- Higher percentage of recycling (10% -15% versus 1%-3% for plastics)

- Light and convenient like plastic bags
- Biodegradable in certain conditions

- Reduce energy usage, landfill, and pollution due to its reusable nature

Cons

- Consume forests
- Take 4 times as much energy as needed to produce
- Generate 70% more air pollution and 50 times more water pollution in production
- Take 90% more energy to recycle when recycling rate is low
- 7 times heavier than plastic to transport
- Take up more space in landfill

- Highly confusing definition of bio-plastics. Many bio-based products are not necessarily biodegradable
- Many biodegradable bags require special processing and facilities. There are limited collection and processing platforms
- When mingled with traditional plastics, this causes contamination and make the product unrecyclable

- If the bags are not reused a sufficient number of times, more energies are wasted as most reusable bags are made from materials that require more energy to produce
- Difficult to remember as it requires living habit changes
- Inconvenient since most products are bulky to carry

NOT THE RIGHT ANSWER

NOT AS GOOD AN ANSWER AS IT SOUNDS

THE RIGHT ANSWER – BUT NEED INDIVIDUAL EFFORTS