

Plastic Bag Reduction Act - SB0223/ HB314

Bags Dangers of Plastic Bags

- 160,000 plastic bags are used globally every second!
- 5 trillion plastic bags are produced yearly. Side by side, they can encircle the world 7 times.
- The Great Pacific Garbage Patch, which is a floating landfill of garbage in the Pacific twice the size of Texas, is mostly composed of plastic.
- In 2008, a sperm whale was found beached in California. It died due to the more than 22 kilos of plastic found in its stomach.
- Plastic will only start degrading after 700 years and will only fully degrade in 1000 years. This means that all the plastic that has ever been produced has not degraded yet.
- Plastic bags remain toxic even after it breaks down. It doesn't biodegrade, it photo-degrades. It means that after it degrades, it breaks down into smaller and smaller toxic bits of itself – and bleeds and contaminates the environment.
- An average family will use 60 plastic bags on four visits to the supermarket.
- Only 1 to 3% of plastic bags are recycled worldwide.
- Plastic bags cause the death of many marine animals when they are mistaken for food.
- Plastic bags were introduced to supermarkets in 1977.
- In the North Pacific Ocean, there are 6x more plastic debris than plankton.
- Plastic bags are produced using petroleum, natural gas and other chemicals. Its production is toxic to the environment.

Source: <https://www.theworldcounts.com/stories/interesting-facts-about-plastic-bags>

10 Facts About Single-use Plastic Bags

1. Americans use [100 billion plastic bags a year](#), which require 12 million barrels of oil to manufacture.
2. It only takes about [14 plastic bags](#) for the equivalent of the gas required to drive one mile.
3. The average American family takes home almost [1,500 plastic shopping bags a year](#).
4. According to Waste Management, [only 1 percent of plastic bags are returned for recycling](#). That means that the average family only recycles 15 bags a year; the rest end up in landfills or as litter.
5. [Up to 80 percent of ocean plastic pollution](#) enters the ocean from land.
6. At least [267 different species](#) have been affected by plastic pollution in the ocean.
7. [100,000 marine animals](#) are killed by plastic bags annually.
8. [One in three leatherback sea turtles](#) have been found with plastic in their stomachs.
9. Plastic bags are used for an average of [12 minutes](#).
10. It takes [500 \(or more\) years](#) for a plastic bag to degrade in a landfill. Unfortunately, the bags don't break down completely but instead photo-degrade, becoming microplastics that absorb toxins and continue to pollute the environment.

Source:

https://www.biologicaldiversity.org/programs/population_and_sustainability/sustainability/plastic_bag_facts.html