

# THE BETTER **BAG** GUIDE

YOUR INDISPENSIBLE GUIDE TO SINGLE AND MULTIPLE USE BAG TYPES, RANKED IN ORDER OF MOST TO LEAST SUSTAINABLE OR MINDFUL TO THE ENVIRONMENT. YOUR BEST BET IS TO USE HARDWEARING BAGS OR BASKETS THAT WILL LAST YOU MANY YEARS. NO EXCUSE FOR SINGLE USE!

## **BAG TYPE**

## **ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS**

## **DOWN SIDES**





or canvas trolley



Highly durable

Can be reused for many years



#### **BOOMERANG BAG**

Made from fabric waste

www.boomerangbags.org

Can be reused for many years

Uses material that would otherwise become waste

May need to be washed occasionally, consuming water, energy & detergent

**HEMP OR SILK BAG** 



#### Can be reused for many years

Made from a low-impact renewable material

May need to be washed occasionally, consuming water, energy & detergent



#### **REUSABLE BAG**

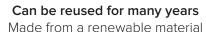
Made from polypropylene or PET plastic

Can be reused for many years

Can be recycled through supermarket soft plastic collections\*

Made from a non-renewable resource (gas or oil) May need to be washed occasionally

**REUSABLE BAG** Made from cotton



Growing cotton uses a lot of water and chemicals Non-recyclable May need to be washed occasionally



# **POLYETHENE**

**BAG** Made from plastic

Can be reused 10-20 times

Can be recycled through supermarket soft plastic collections\*

Made from a non-renewable resource (gas or oil), hazardous to wildlife if littered

PAPER BAG Recycled/recyclable



## 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 BAG

**COMPOSTABLE** 

Made from a (generally) renewable material Can be composted in a commercial composting facility

Not accepted in most green waste bins Composting loses resource value compared to recycling

SINGLE USE BAG **OXO-DEGRADABLE** 



Will eventually degrade

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 collections\*

Made from a non-renewable resource, hazardous to wildlife if littered, wasteful use of resources