

Each year, 500 billion to 1 trillion plastic bags are consumed worldwide.  
This averages to nearly 1 million bags per minute.

So what is the problem with all this plastic bag consumption?

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**Energy Consumption** — Plastic bag production requires petroleum and natural gas (nonrenewable resources that contribute to global warming). The manufacturing of plastic bags accounts for 4 percent of the world's total oil production.

**Water Contamination** — It is estimated that every square mile of ocean contains about 46,000 pieces of floating plastic. These plastic products contaminate precious water sources.

**Animal Death** — More than 1 million birds, marine animals, and land animals die each year from plastic entanglement or ingesting plastic mistaken for food.

**Landfill Waste** — Trash pickers avoid most plastic bags because they are lightweight and have a low resale value. The majority of these bags end up in landfills and take 1,000 years to degrade.

**Clogged Waterways** — Plastic bags block waterways and drainage systems. This worsens flooding during monsoons, inconveniencing city residents and creating severe safety hazards (delaying trains, destroying homes, and causing mudslides).

**Soil Degradation** — Plastic waste impedes the flow of ground water and obstructs the movement of plant roots. This affects soil fertility and harms farmers' crop yields.

**Disease** — Drains clogged by plastic bags create breeding grounds for waterborne diseases, malaria, and dengue fever.

**Occupational Health Hazards** — Plastics must be melted down to be recycled, a process that emits harmful fumes. Workers who inhale these fumes are at risk of developing lung diseases or cancer.

**Toxic Pollution** — The toxic chemicals emitted during the manufacturing, recycling, and decomposition of plastic bags pollute our air, water, and soil (and eventually end up in the food we eat).

**Landscape Litter** — When used and discarded, packaged goods and takeaway products turn beautiful landscapes into ugly, unhygienic dumping grounds.

## Plastic Grocery Bags

It seems that every time we shop, we are given a plastic bag.

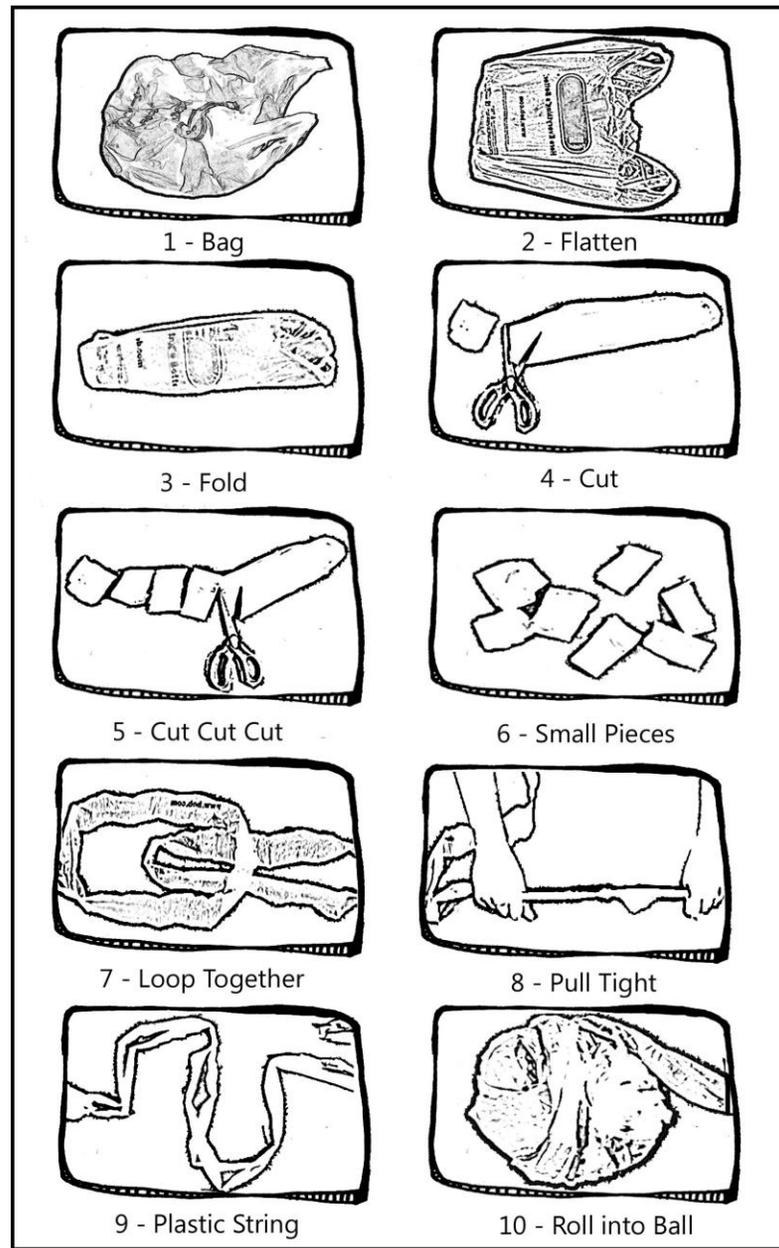
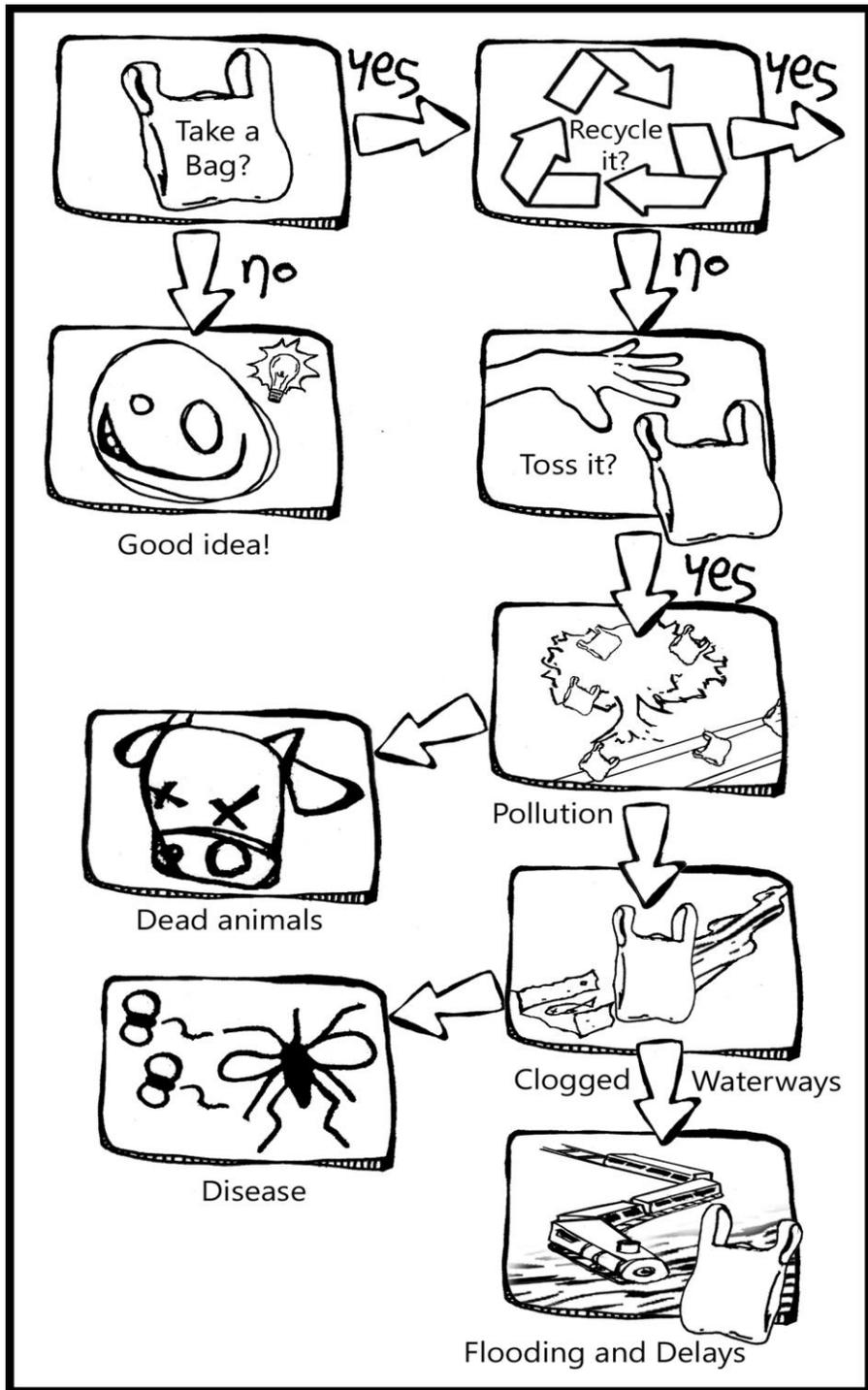
We use these bags for only a minute, and then toss them away. This causes a huge problem!

BagsBeGone.com is dedicated to reusing plastic bags that would otherwise end up in the oceans, streets, and landfills.

By turning discarded plastic bags into durable, reusable items, we can clean up the environment and improve the quality of our lives.



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Now that you have a ball of plastic bag string, you can crochet, knit, weave, or create other amazing craft projects. The possibilities are endless.

Just don't throw your plastic bags away!