

Plastic Bags

4 billion plastic bags
were used by Australians in 2005

kick the habit!

and help protect our local environment

Plastic bags are a serious threat to our environment and natural resources. They fill up our landfills and can take between 20 and 1000 years to break down.



Millions of plastic bags end up as litter on our beaches and streets and in our rivers and parks. They block drains and harm our wildlife and marine animals.

Reducing the number of plastic bags we use will help keep them out of the environment and reduce the amount of resources used to produce them.



How can you reduce plastic bag use

You can help reduce plastic bags using these simple steps.

Refuse

- When you're only buying a couple of items, consider carrying them without a bag
- Take **reusable alternatives** like calico or 'green' bags with you when you go shopping, and not just at the supermarket. Keep them in the car so you don't forget them and have a reusable bag in the your handbag for impulse buys.



Reduce

- Place as many items as possible into each bag.
- Avoid putting large items, like toilet paper, dogfood or nappies into plastic bags.

Reuse

- Reuse plastic bags at home for: freezing foods, packing lunches, storing clothes and other items or as bin liners.
- Take your plastic bags back and reuse them at the shop. Keep one handy in your bag or wallet.

Even if you reuse plastic bags you've probably got a heap of them at home. So when shopping **only get as many bags as you would normally reuse.**

Recycle

- Find a supermarket that has a recycling service and take your plastic bags back for recycling next time you go shopping. Make sure they are clean, empty and always remove any receipts.
- Plastic bags should not be placed in your kerbside recycling bin.

For more information contact Gosford City Council on 4325 8222 or go to www.gosford.nsw.gov.au