



## Tip Sheet

### Reduce by Using Reusable Bags

Many California grocers and retailers sell inexpensive reusable bags; leave yours in your vehicle for easy use, and refuse bags for smaller purchases. Reusable bags only serve their intended purpose if you remember to bring them with you on your shopping trips!

### Reuse (In this case – repurpose!)

There are many ways to reuse plastic carryout bags for other purposes all throughout your home. This extends the use of the bag at least once before it gets disposed:

- Hand protectors – place them over your hands to handle messes indoors and out
- Kitchen clean-up – place them under the cutting board for quick scrap removal
- Trash can liners – use them in bathrooms and other household waste baskets
- Doggie duty – bring them on dog walks to collect and dispose of pet waste

You can recycle bags if they are clean and dry after you repurpose them in these ways:

- Wet Umbrella Covers – keep items in your bag dry when your umbrella is wet
- Dirty clothes or Shoes – Tuck bags in your suitcase as dirty clothes bags or wrap around shoes to protect your suitcase and your clothes

### Recycle

State law requires most large supermarkets and pharmacies to set up recycling bins so every Californian can return plastic shopping bags for recycling. In most stores, bag collection bins are located at the front entrance or in checkout areas. Grocery bags aren't the only things that can be recycled; the bins also accept all bags labeled #2 or #4, including the following items:

- Dry-cleaning bags (remove paper and hangers)
- Bread bags
- Produce bags
- Wraps from paper towels, bathroom tissue, napkins, and diapers
- Plastic newspaper bags
- Mattress bags
- Retail bags (remove hard plastic or string handles)
- Zip lock bags (remove hard components)
- Cereal box liners
- Plastic shipping envelopes (remove labels)
- Case wrap (e.g., snacks, water bottles)
- Furniture and electronic wrap

**Receipts, debris, and other contaminants may prevent bags from being recycled properly, so make sure all bags and wraps are clean, empty, and have not been in any direct contact with food or material that has been painted or glued.**

Storing plastic bags and product wraps in a plastic bag offers neat, convenient storage. Simply knot the handles when you're ready to drop them off at your local grocer or retailer. Recycling these bags and wraps allows them to have a second life as new products including backyard fencing and decking, building and construction products, shopping carts, and of course, new bags.