

Paper or plastic?

In the early 80's supermarkets switched from using paper to plastic bags to cut costs. Plastic bags cost up to 75% less than paper. Some stores give customers a choice between paper and plastic.

A look at the two choices:



How much more air pollution does the production of paper bags generate than the production of plastic bags?

70%

Percentage of plastic bags that are recycled

3%

Percentage of paper bags that are recycled

15%

Paper

- Biodegradable
- Made from renewable resources

Plastic

- Take up less space in landfills
- Require less energy to produce

Which is the best?



It's a toss-up. It's best to bring your own cloth bags or ask store clerks to hand you easily transportable items without bags.

Source: The Consumer's Guide to Effective Environmental Choices - Practical Advice from the Union of Concerned Scientists

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