

## PLASTIC BAGS AND WRAP

Finding alternatives to unnecessary disposable soft plastic in the waste stream is an ongoing concern for BVWaste. It is difficult and expensive to control the ongoing wind-blown litter at the Francis Cooke Landfill and regional compost processing sites. We encourage you to avoid these single use products where appropriate. Although plastic grocery bags can be returned to the stores that distribute them and commercial recycling services offer plastic recycling options, plastic bags and wrap are difficult to recycle in our Bow Valley municipal programs.

### CONSIDER:

When bags are necessary, retail purchases may be placed in bags that can be re-used and washed periodically over a long life span.

If traditional plastic bags are used for grocery purchases they should be reused as often as possible. Bags are not needed for purchases that can be handled safely by hand.

Unwanted plastic grocery bags should be placed in the recycling bins at the store where you got them. Since different stores may have different plastic materials in the manufacturing of their bags, don't mix them to ensure the consistency of the recycled material collected at each store.

Paper and degradable or compostable bags are not ideal for garbage disposal needs. It is best to use an inert material that will not degrade or decompose and create ongoing problems when buried in a landfill.

Compostable bags should only be used for disposal when they contain material being placed in approved composting programs. When purchasing these products please look for the independent compost certification labels of organizations such as the Biodegradable Products Institute (BPI), the US Composting Council or the Bureau de Normalization du Quebec (BNQ). **Traditional, oxo-biodegradable and degradable plastic bags are currently NOT acceptable for placing material in our local municipal compost collection programs.**

Compostable bags should be left open, if possible, to assist contents making contact with decomposing organisms during composting.

Garburators may be considered as a way to avoid mess, odours and the need for plastic bags in handling food waste. Consult your local municipality to learn about best practices before installing and operating a garburator. Contact [Info@BVWaste.ca](mailto:Info@BVWaste.ca) to learn how garburators help get food waste composted rather than landfilled.

Unwanted plastic bags, wraps and packing should be tied with a weight, tied in a knot or packaged in some other manner to prevent blowing in the wind.

Businesses, construction crews and property managers should ensure their waste collection systems do not accept plastic in forms that can be a problem for collection crews and landfill managers.



Take a set of reusable bags or a backpack on your shopping trips!



This "100% Degradable" bag remains intact after passing through Banff's composting process and is now blowing around as litter or may be ingested by wildlife. Please use only bags that are approved by the Town for use in the food waste composting program.