

## PAPER OR PLASTIC, THOSE PESKY PLASTIC BAGS

What is the better choice a paper or plastic bag? A reusable bag of course is the best choice. However, other bags also have their place.

A few years ago, a couple of communities in California banned plastic shopping bags only to find out that the sale of plastic garbage bags and wastebasket liners went up. They discovered that many people use the free plastic bags they get at the store for kitchen and bathroom trash collection as well as diaper and pet waste cleanup. The free bags were replaced with bought bags. Those bans were lifted at the time.

Chester County grocery stores have collection containers at their entrances to collect and recycle plastic bags. Some bags might rip or have a hole in the bottom, making them unusable for home trash collection. Back to the grocery store entrance container is the place for them. But there are many other items to recycle in those containers you might not be aware of. You can also put in plastic newspaper sleeves, dry cleaning bags, bread bags, product wrap (used on paper towels, diapers, bathroom tissue, water bottles), food storage bags, produce bags, bubble wrap, LDPE/HDPE films and any film packaging or bag that has the How2Recycle Label shown.

Please recycle only **CLEAN and DRY** bags and film and remove receipts or any other items. Never put plastic bags in your curbside recycling bin. A plastic bag at a recycling facility can jam expensive sorting equipment.

Clean plastic bags mixed with sawdust will become plastic lumber – a deck, a dock, a fence, bench or even an attractive outdoor recycling container.