

USING PLASTIC BAGS AND WRAP

BVWASTE encourages avoiding single use products where appropriate. Finding alternatives to unnecessary disposable plastic in the waste stream is an ongoing concern for BVWaste. Plastic bags and flexible plastic wrap is difficult to recycle in the Bow Valley with the exception of plastic grocery bags that can be returned to the stores that distribute them. It is also difficult and expensive to control the ongoing wind blown plastic litter at the Francis Cooke Landfill and plastic bags are a contamination problem for our regional composting programs. Contact Info@BVWaste for more detailed information or call 403-688-1627.

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 accepted for grocery purchases they should be reused as often as possible. Bags need not be used for purchases that can be handled safely by hand unless required by the retailer.

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 programmes. When purchasing these products please look for the independent certification labels of organizations such as the Biodegradable Products Institute or the US Composting Council. Traditional, oxo-biodegradable and degradable plastic bags are currently NOT considered suitable for placing material in our local municipal compost collection programs.

Compostable bags should be left open to assist its contents making quick contact with the decomposing organisms during the composting process.

Garburators may be considered as a way to avoid the need for plastic bags in handling wet food waste. Consult your local municipality and learn about best practices before installing and operating a garburator. Contact Info@BVWaste to learn how garburators can help get disposable foods 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 them 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. It will eventually break down but before it does it may blow around and escape the storage area as litter. Please use only approved bags in compost programmes.