



## Is plastic packaging more harmful to the environment than paper?

We are all familiar with the recent reports of whales dying due to ingesting plastic bags, and other topical issues about the threat plastic packaging presents to the environment.

The tricky question is - is paper really a better option?

- Paper bags have a far larger carbon footprint than plastic, it would require seven times as many trucks to deliver the same quantity of paper bags compared to plastic.
- Paper requires large amounts of water and natural resources during the manufacturing process. Incidentally, the plastic bag was introduced to prevent excessive tree-cutting for paper bag making...!
- Paper can be easily recycled however; the resulting product is not so strong and often requires virgin material to be added to improve the quality. Plastic recycling is becoming increasingly effective and access to these facilities is constantly improving.
- Correct wrapping protects goods, especially in the food industry. Many tonnes of food are wasted due to reducing the amount of packaging to try and promote a 'greener' image.
- Where disposal of packaging materials is unavoidable, paper takes up significant volumes of landfill space compared to plastics. Contrary to popular belief paper materials in landfill sites take many, many years to breakdown.

**In conclusion, the issue really rests with us to use and dispose of all packaging waste responsibly whatever materials are used. Contact your local council or commercial waste recycling company to find out how you can deal with packaging waste effectively.**

Fern Dale Supplies is committed to reducing the impact of its activities on the environment, see our [Environmental Policy](#) for full details.



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