



# Single-use plastic shopping bag ban

## Questions to ask your bag supplier

Below are some questions businesses can ask suppliers when choosing an alternative to single-use plastic shopping bags.

### How are the bags produced?

- What resources are required for their production?

### Where are the bags produced?

- Are they produced in New Zealand?

Reducing the distance the bag travels from manufacture to the customer can reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

- If they are imported – how far have they travelled?
- Who makes the bags? Are they ethically made?

### What are the bags made from?

- Is it just one material or a blend of materials?

Bags made from a blend of materials, or with components made of different materials, can be harder to process at the end of their functional life and need more resources to produce.

### Are the inks or dyes used (if any) environmentally friendly?

Look for sustainable inks or dyes that are not petroleum based.

## If made from paper is the paper bleached or unbleached?

Unbleached paper does not require as many chemicals as bleached paper. Unbleached paper is also more suitable for composting or recycling.

## Is the bag suitable for multiple reuse?

- How many times can the bag be reused?
- Has the manufacturer tested its durability?

## Can the bags be recycled in New Zealand?

- Where can they be recycled?
- If they can't – what should my customer do with their bag when it is no longer suitable for reuse?

## Does the bag include recycled content?

- If so – how much and where from?

## What is the micron level of the bag?

- Is it 70 micron or above? Can the supplier provide evidence to confirm the micron level of the bag(s)?

## What is the weight and volume of the bag?

- How much weight can the bag safely carry?
- What is the size of the bag?

## Is the bag leak-proof?

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