

Plastic Checkout Bags in the Australian Marketplace

About plastic checkout bags

- 20 million Australians still use over 3.9 billion plastic checkout bags a year. That's 10 million a day!
- A person's use of a plastic checkout bag can be counted in minutes - however long it takes to get from the shops to their homes. However, plastic bags can take between 15 and 1,000 years to break down in the environment.
- Many marine and terrestrial animals are killed by plastic bags that escape from landfill.

Recycling plastic checkout bags

- Plastic bags cannot be placed in council recycling bins.
- Over 200,000 plastic checkout bags are dumped in landfills every hour.
- Only 3% of Australia's plastic bags are currently being recycled, despite recycling facilities being available at major supermarkets and retail outlets listed above.

Recycling other types of plastic bags

Other types of plastic bags, or soft plastic packaging, can now be recycled in many supermarkets. These soft plastics include pasta and rice bags, lolly and biscuit packets, fresh fruit and vegie bags, frozen food bags, magazine and newspaper wrapping, and clean plastic wrap/film.