



GreenNY

Quick Guide to Purchasing Trash Bags

In general ...

Trash bags should be made with recycled content and follow other environmental and health standards to the greatest extent possible.

Use the guidelines below to buy trash bags:

Plastic Trash Bags

- ✓ 10% post-consumer recycled content
- ✓ Thickness of 10 microns or less (if smaller than 13 gallons)
- ✓ NOT labeled “oxo-biodegradable” or “oxo-degradable”

Paper Trash Bags

- ✓ Wet-strength
- ✓ Contain post-consumer recycled content
- ✓ Bioplastic must be certified as compostable by BPI or an equivalent organization

Disposable Medical Waste Bags

- ✓ Plastic
- ✓ Red in color
- “BIOHAZARD” printed or equivalent warning
- ✓ Resistant to ripping, tearing, or bursting under normal conditions
- ✓ Does NOT contain cadmium

Compostable Bioplastic Bags

- ✓ Green in color
- ✓ BPI (or equivalent) logo
- ✓ “COMPOSTABLE” printed on the bag
- ✓ Must be included on the [BPI Approved Compostable Bag](#) list

Trash Bags Should NOT Contain

- ⊘ Ink, dyes, pigments, adhesives, or stabilizers
- ⊘ Additives of lead, cadmium, mercury, or hexavalent chromium in greater than 100ppm (0.01% by weight)
- ⊘ Antimicrobial ingredient
- ⊘ Fragrances or phthalates



Learn more about GreenNY Purchasing at <https://ogs.ny.gov/greenny>