



PLASTIC BAGS by the NUMBERS

the average time a plastic bag is used

12
minutes

up to
1,000
years

the amount of time a plastic bag can take to break down

over
319
million

the number of plastic bags that become waste each year in Cuyahoga County



WHY SHOULD WE GET RID OF SINGLE-USE PLASTIC BAGS?

- **Healthier ecosystems and wildlife.** Our area's valuable waterways, wildlife, beaches and parks will be better protected from harmful plastic bag litter and chemicals.
- **Reduces carbon footprint** by substituting plastic bags with durable and long-lasting reusable bags and paper bags made from recycled materials.
- **Cleaner water supply** by reducing the amount of microplastics that leach in from plastic bags.
- **More efficient public utility operations.** Water and sewer systems run more smoothly without plastic bags clogging storm drains and other equipment.
- **Cleaner neighborhoods.** Plastic bags (also known as urban tumbleweeds) are often seen littering our yards, roadways, trees and playgrounds.
- **Cost savings** because the costs of "free" single-use bags are passed on to consumers at checkout and to taxpayers who pay for litter clean-up.



REMEMBER TO BRING YOUR BAGS

Change can be a challenge, but try to remember to keep reusable bags in your car and grab them before you go into a store. Reusable bags have many upsides because they:

- Don't rip as easily.
- Hold more per bag.
- Save you money when retailers aren't passing on the costs of their bags to you.



FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT:
CUYAHOGACOUNTY.US/BYOBAGS

