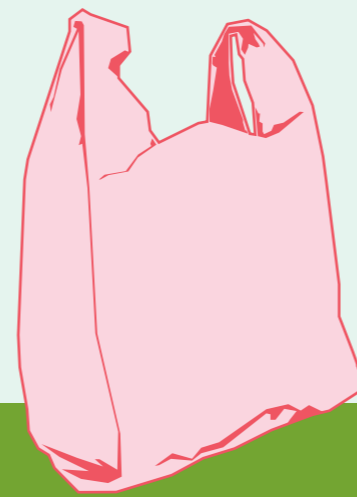


EACH PLASTIC BAG WEIGHS HEAVILY ON THE ENVIRONMENT



HDPE BAGS

High Density Polyethylene bags are one of the main types of plastic bags given out by supermarkets and convenience stores in Singapore. A similar type, the Low Density Polyethylene (LDPE) bags, are used primarily by department stores.

These bags, which are not very durable, are often thrown away after a single use. This results in massive and rapid consumption, and a significant cost to the environment.

Commonly suggested alternatives to HDPE bags include degradable, paper, non-woven and cotton bags. How do you think they compare?

CHOOSE WISELY

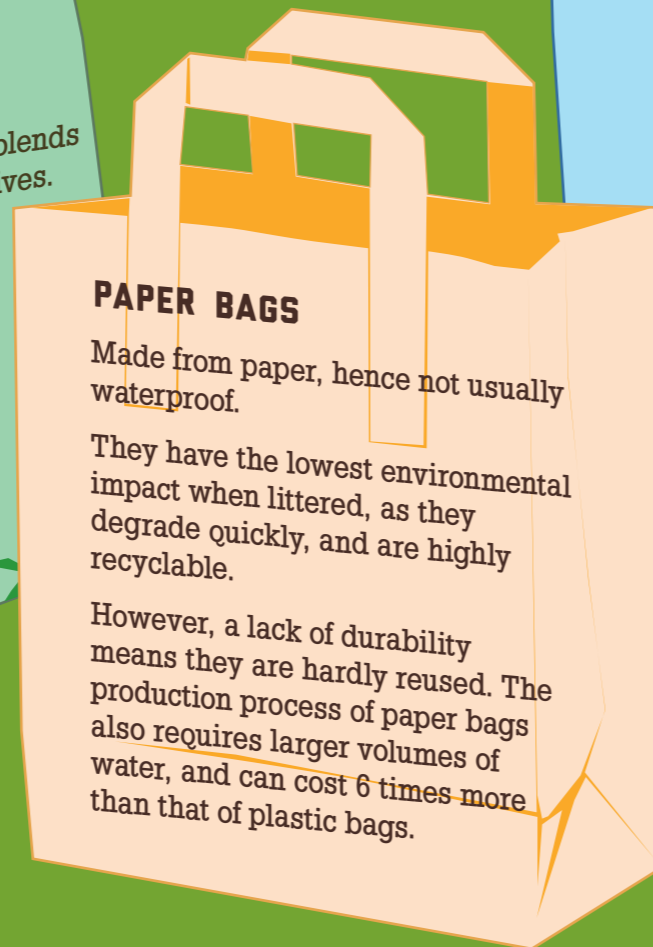


DEGRADABLE BAGS

Usually made from starch-polyester blends or plastics with pro-degradant additives.

They require less raw materials to produce, have a lower impact on the littering stream, and take much shorter time to degrade than HDPE bags.

However, many are not designed for material recycling.



PAPER BAGS

Made from paper, hence not usually waterproof.

They have the lowest environmental impact when littered, as they degrade quickly, and are highly recyclable.

However, a lack of durability means they are hardly reused. The production process of paper bags also requires larger volumes of water, and can cost 6 times more than that of plastic bags.



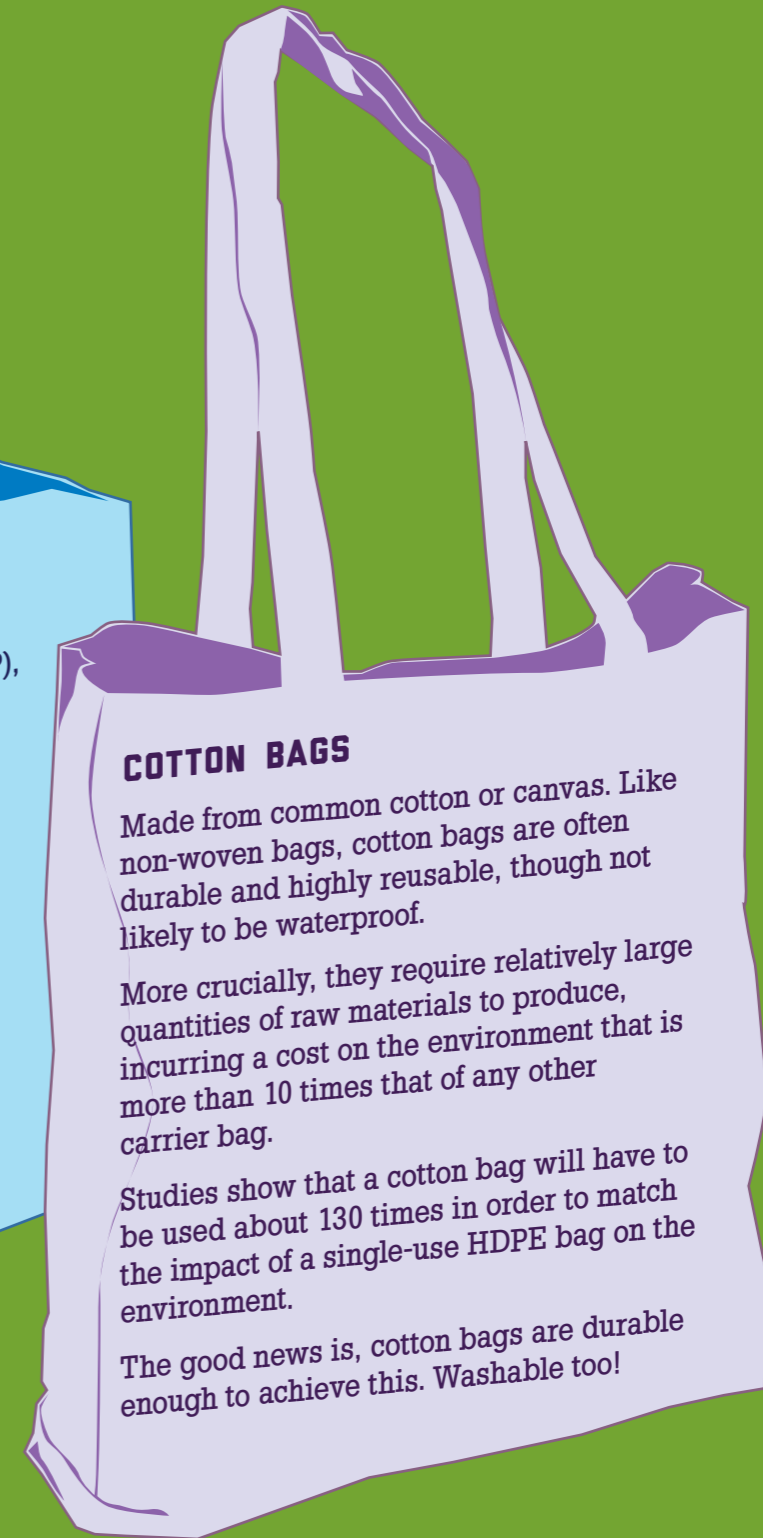
NON-WOVEN BAGS

Made from polypropylene plastics (PP), or polyethylene terephthalate (PET), a recycled material.

Their high strength-to-weight ratio makes them durable, waterproof, and hence highly functional.

Despite requiring more raw materials to produce, their durability and reusability may result in a lower cost on the environment on the long run.

We just have to remember to bring them along for shopping!



COTTON BAGS

Made from common cotton or canvas. Like non-woven bags, cotton bags are often durable and highly reusable, though not likely to be waterproof.

More crucially, they require relatively large quantities of raw materials to produce, incurring a cost on the environment that is more than 10 times that of any other carrier bag.

Studies show that a cotton bag will have to be used about 130 times in order to match the impact of a single-use HDPE bag on the environment.

The good news is, cotton bags are durable enough to achieve this. Washable too!

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