

## Tip of the Week

### B.Y.O. Bag

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Just a gentle reminder, since I'm sure you've heard it before, but as you head out this weekend, to begin or finish your holiday shopping, bring your own bag. Or take two, if you're feeling ambitious.

This is common practice in virtually every other country but our own. The U.S. uses 100 billion plastic bags annually, consuming about 12 million barrels of oil. As less than 1% of plastic bags are ever recycled, using a sturdy reusable bag will eliminate hundreds to thousands of plastic bags over its lifetime. That spells huge savings to your state, city or town. Take California for example: it costs taxpayers \$20.5 million to collect and landfill plastic bag waste each year. And that's not counting external costs, such as pollution, risk and threat to marine life, etc.

If you don't have a reusable bag around the house, visit Stop & Shop or GIANT. They now are offering Earthwise reusable bags to their customers. [Earthwise bags](#) are made of non-woven polypropylene and are lightweight, durable and recyclable. But I'd recommend using them over and over, since they are also washable.

For more information, visit [earthwisebags.com](http://earthwisebags.com) or [reusablebags.com](http://reusablebags.com).

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