

# Plastics Vs. The Alternatives

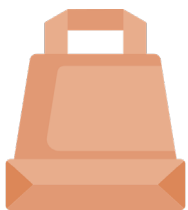


Plastics are often seen as the culprit for polluting the environment, the worst offender for waste and litter, and a material that needs to be removed wherever possible. However, removing plastics or replacing them with alternatives such as paper, glass, and cotton is not the answer. These 'greener' alternatives are more polluting in production, distribution, and recycling than plastics. Here are the facts:



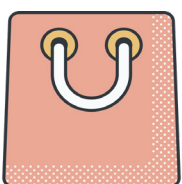
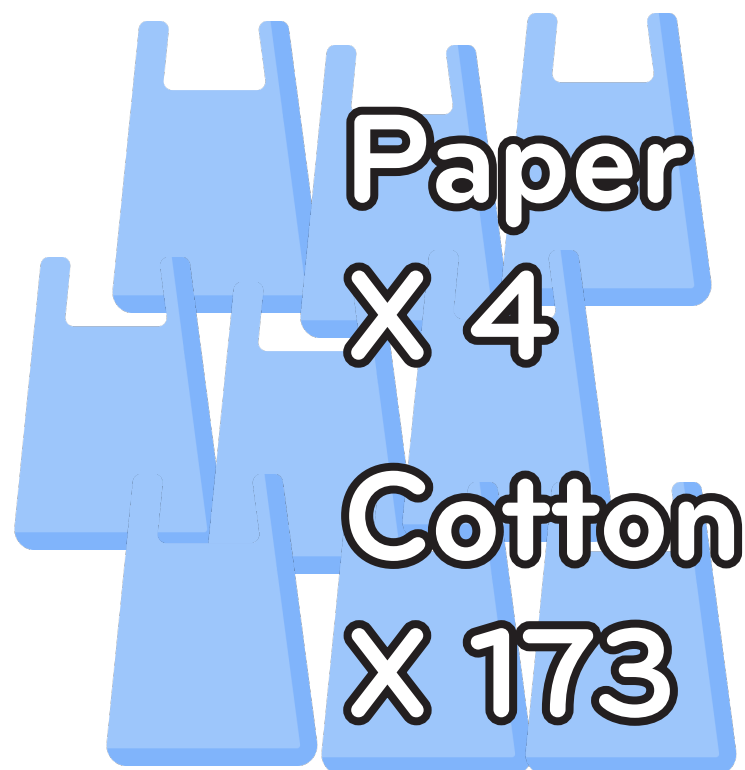
As glass is heavier, and the melting point is >1,000C higher than plastic, it is extremely energy intensive to produce, distribute, and recycle.

The same amount of energy & emissions to make a single glass bottle could be used to make 24 plastic bottles. Furthermore, recycling rates for plastic bottles are among the highest of all materials.



Similarly, as paper is 30% more dense than plastic and also uses considerable amounts of water in production, it's footprint is 4x that of a polythene carrier.

Unless you re-use your paper bag >4 times, paper is more environmentally damaging!



Finally, using the same principles, the cotton shopper... Of all the bags available, these have the highest environmental footprint and require re-use 173 times, or >3 years of weekly shops.