

## Plastic Bag Alternatives (Plastic Rolls)

Plastic bags attribute to a large portion of daily waste. Most consumer goods are taken home in a plastic bags: groceries, clothing, electronics, etc. The problem is that the consumer has very little use for the plastic bags after they arrive home. We can hope that society reuses or recycles the countless bags they bring home each day, but there is really no way to monitor or enforce good habits upon others. However, it is possible for retailers to share some of the responsibility and cut down the initial amount of plastic used before the consumer can even bring it home. By using my redesign, the amount of plastic used to bag goods can be specified to match the exact amount needed for the size and weight of the items.

Instead of individual plastic bags, I suggest using a large roll of plastic. The roll could be pulled out according to the items that need to be bagged. After rolling out the plastic, the individual items would be laid on top. To close, simply cut the end with the blade attached to the roll, similar to plastic wrap or aluminum foil boxes. Bring the four corners together, and twist the bag shut. This ability to customize the amount of plastic, cuts the needless amount of plastic wasted on customers whose items do not require large bags. Not only does this reduce the amount of plastic the consumer comes home with, but it also means the retailer has to buy less plastic, saving him or her money. Additionally, buying a roll of plastic should cost a retailer less than buying the same amount of plastic in the form of bags because of the decrease in labor needed to make that product.

Although still in a conceptual phase, I feel that plastic rolls would be a better alternative to the traditional idea of plastic bags. I often see rolls of paper at certain stores, but these rolls are only ever used to wrap fragile items before, ironically, putting them in a plastic bag. I think both paper and plastic rolls can be used to bag items and would drastically reduce plastic usage. However the method of wrapping and closing the goods securely would have to be designed through a process of trial and error.