



The bottle that packs IV fluids and the bag you carry for shopping are made from the same material.

How can a plastic bag be harmful?

For more information visit www.icpeenvvis.nic.in



**Do not litter.
Plastics are recyclable.**

Issued in public interest by Indian Centre for Plastics in the Environment.

Intra Venous solution Bottles (IV Bottles) are used for administering life saving medicines to millions of ailing patients daily not only in India but across the whole world. Plastics have replaced the erstwhile conventional material – Glass, for this application for various reasons. Plastics, besides fulfilling the main critical criterion of being a safe material from health & safety points of view, provide additional benefits like light weight and unbreakable property. Due to light weight, transportation of Plastics IV Bottles during delivery consumes lesser fuel and hence reduces environmental pollution. IV Bottles are made of Polyethylene – a plastic material approved for its use in direct contact with ready to eat food stuffs, drinking water and pharmaceutical products.

Normal plastic carry bags are made of the same material as that of IV Bottle – Polyethylene. The attributes, which have made the use of plastics IV Bottle safe, exists for carry bags also. Still it is alleged that Plastics carry bags are not environment friendly. Consider these facts revealed by Life Cycle Impact Studies conducted by credible International Organisations:

- Normal plastic carry bags consume only about 35% of energy compared to that required for manufacturing paper and compostable plastic carry bags.
- The weight of equivalent paper bags is 9 times more than plastic carry bags, which necessitates 10 times more transportation trips for paper bags consuming more fuel and thus causing more environmental pollution.
- Millions of trees would have to be cut every year to manufacture paper carry bags, if normal plastic carry bags are banned.
- Normal plastic carry bags manufacturing process consume only about 5% fresh water compared to that of paper or compostable plastic bags. In real terms, this saving can meet the drinking water requirement of millions of people.
- Plastic bags generate 60% less Green House Gas (GHG) Emission than uncomposted paper bags and 79% less GHG Emissions than composted paper bags. The saving is much more when the comparison is made with compostable plastic or jute bags.
- Plastics bags are recyclable. Paper bags also are recyclable; however it takes 91% more energy for recycling equivalent weight of paper than that of plastics. Compostable or jute bags are not recyclable.
- Paper bags generate 70% more air pollutants and 50% more water pollutants than normal plastic bags do during manufacture.
- Energy Saving during manufacture of raw materials, production and transportation of plastic bags compared to jute bags is 81%.
- Environmental Burden with respect to Air and Water pollution during Production of Raw Material and Bags for Plastic Bags is much less than that created by Jute bags.

Our poor littering habits coupled with inadequate infrastructure for waste management has created the disposal problem of solid waste, including the plastic waste especially in the urban areas. Discontinuation of Plastic bags is no solution and will rather multiply the problem many fold. This will add to the woes of common man as the so called alternatives are unviable, costly and place greater burden on the environment. The challenge facing us is to improve the solid waste management system and create awareness among general mass against littering.

The solution lies in Segregation of Waste at Source and arrangement for Recycling of all recyclable waste. Plastics Bags are 100% recyclable. Plastics Bags are Environment friendly.