

U.S. Army Garrison Hawaii – Environmental Compliance Guide

PLASTIC BAGS

GENERAL INFORMATION

The first plastics made from fossil fuels are just over a century old. They came into widespread use after World War II and are found today in everything from cars to medical devices to food packaging. Their useful lifetime varies. Once disposed of, they break down into smaller fragments that linger for centuries.

The largest market for plastics today is for packaging materials. That trash now accounts for nearly half of all plastic waste generated globally; most of it never gets recycled or incinerated. An average plastic bag is used for only 15 minutes. (source [National Geographic](#)).

WASTE CHARACTERIZATION

Plastics bags and other plastics films (saran wrap, soft plastic packaging) are NOT recyclable in your single-stream recycling bins.

HANDLING AND DISPOSAL PROCEDURES

- **Reduce:** First, politely refuse plastic bags when offered. This reduces the plastic bags that are created and disposed of.
- **Reuse:** Invest in reusable bags and remember to bring them with you each time. If you do have to take a plastic bag, you can use it again for groceries or as a trash bag.
- **Recycle:** the Army Recycle Center (ARC) does NOT take plastic bags for recycling. Do not put them in your single-stream recycling bin or bring them to the ARC.
 - The Commissary on post does offer a plastic bag recycling collection point.
- **Trash:** plastic bags and soft plastic films must go in the trash (if not brought to the Commissary)



(pixabay.com).

**For more info contact: DPW Environmental Solid Waste and Recycling Program at
(808) 656-5411 / (808) 656-3085**