

CB64-2019

**Sayers, Margery**

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**From:** Michael Roth <rothmw1@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, December 9, 2019 5:22 PM  
**To:** CouncilMail  
**Cc:** tellhoco  
**Subject:** Reusable Shopping Bags Could Pose a Serious Health Threat

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<https://arizona.pure.elsevier.com/en/publications/assessment-of-the-potential-for-cross-contamination-of-food-produ>

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## Assessment of the potential for cross-contamination of food products by reusable shopping bags

David L. Williams, **Charles P Gerba**, Sherri Maxwell, Ryan G. Sinclair

**Soil, Water and Environmental Science**

*Research output: Contribution to journal > Article*

10

Citations  
(Scopus)

### Abstract

The purpose of this study was to assess the potential for cross-contamination of food products by reusable bags used to carry groceries. Reusable bags were collected at random from consumers as they entered grocery stores in California and Arizona. In interviews, it was found that reusable bags are seldom if ever washed and often used for multiple purposes. Large numbers of bacteria were found in almost all bags and coliform bacteria in half. *Escherichia coli* were identified in 8% of the bags, as well as a wide range of enteric bacteria, including several opportunistic pathogens. When meat juices were added to bags and stored in the trunks of cars for two hours, the number of bacteria increased 10-fold, indicating the potential for bacterial growth in the bags. Hand or machine washing was found to reduce the bacteria in bags by > 99.9%. These results indicate that reusable bags, if not properly washed on a regular basis, can play a role in the cross-contamination of foods. It is recommended that the public be educated about the proper care of reusable bags by means of printed instructions on the bags or through public service announcements. Copyright

ORIGINAL LANGUAGE	English (US)
PAGES (FROM-TO)	508-513
NUMBER OF PAGES	6
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VOLUME	31
ISSUE NUMBER	8
STATE	Published - Aug 2011

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## ASJC Scopus subject areas

Food Science

Public Health, Environmental and Occupational Health

## Cite this

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Williams, D. L., Gerba, C. P., Maxwell, S., & Sinclair, R. G. (2011). Assessment of the potential for cross-contamination of food products by reusable shopping bags. *Food Protection Trends*, 31(8), 508-513.

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*U of Penn, Inst for Law & Econ Research Paper No. 13-2*

24 Pages

Posted: 4 Jan 2013

Last revised: 28 Jan 2013

Jonathan Klick ([https://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/cf\\_dev/AbsByAuth.cfm?per\\_id=289102](https://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/cf_dev/AbsByAuth.cfm?per_id=289102))

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George Mason University - Antonin Scalia Law School, Faculty

Date Written: November 2, 2012

### Abstract

Recently, many jurisdictions have implemented bans or imposed taxes upon plastic grocery bags on environmental grounds. San Francisco County was the first major US jurisdiction to enact such a regulation, implementing a ban in 2007. There is evidence, however, that reusable grocery bags, a common substitute for plastic bags, contain potentially harmful bacteria. We examine emergency room admissions related to these bacteria in the wake of the San Francisco ban. We find that ER visits spiked when the ban went into effect. Relative to other counties, ER admissions increase by at least one fourth, and deaths exhibit a similar increase.

**Keywords:** plastic, environment, pollution, e-coli**JEL Classification:** I18, K32[Suggested Citation >](#)[Show Contact Information >](#)[Download This Paper \(Delivery.cfm/SSRN\\_ID2207128\\_code711466.pdf?abstractid=2196481&mirid=1\)](https://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/Delivery.cfm/SSRN_ID2207128_code711466.pdf?abstractid=2196481&mirid=1)[Open PDF in Browser \(Delivery.cfm/SSRN\\_ID2207128\\_code711466.pdf?abstractid=2196481&mirid=1&type=2\)](https://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/Delivery.cfm/SSRN_ID2207128_code711466.pdf?abstractid=2196481&mirid=1&type=2)

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Journal of Business and Economic Statistics, volume 29, issue 2, p. 238 - 249  
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3. Johnson Chou, Rahul Garg  
University of British Columbia: SEEDS Student Reports  
Posted: 2010-04

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## Sayers, Margery

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**From:** Michael Roth <rothmw1@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, December 6, 2019 8:11 PM  
**To:** CouncilMail  
**Subject:** Better Alternative to Plastic Bag Fee

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# BioRift Eco Friendly T-Shirt Grocery Bags | 100% Biodegradable | Certified ASTM D5511 Thank You Shopping Bags with Handles | Extra Thick 0.61 MILS, Food Scraps, Shopping - 500 Count

by BioRift

20 ratings

Price: **\$35.99** & **FREE Shipping**. [Details](#) & **FREE Returns**

- ✓ 100% BIODEGRADABLE- Biodegrades fully within 4 years! No need to compost – just throw this bag in your regular trash can or recycle bin! BIORIFT is setting a new standard. Unlike most products claiming to be biodegradable, BIORIFT has been scientifically tested for ASTM D5511. This means our products are Biodegradable under standard landfill conditions – the most common waste disposal method! This bag has shown to biodegrade 47.9% in 361 days!
- 🐾 SAVING ANIMALS FROM PLASTIC WASTE – Start the biodegradable trend to help save wildlife from plastic waste. Plastic has damaged animals for quite sometime and now is the time to put a stop to it. We launched these biodegradable bags as the first step to help mitigate wildlife suffering from plastic waste. Be apart of the trend! Saving our world, one bag at a time.
- 👉 500 DURABLE T-SHIRT GROCERY BAGS - 12 inches width, 6 1/2 inches gusset width, and 22 inches height of these biodegradable bags with targeted shelf life ensure that you carry all the stuff you want to with ease and without worrying about the space you have available. Avoid excessive heat, store Compostable Bags in a cool, dry place and used within two year of purchase.
- 🌍 SAVING OUR WORLD, ONE BAG AT A TIME - BioRift is proudly made right here in Southern USA, so you know you are buying right from the source! Thanks to the HDPE material used to manufacture it, you can be sure of doing a bit towards protecting the environment as these biodegradable t-shirt bags break down or decompose a lot faster than traditional plastic bags used for hot and cold items.
- 😊 100% SATISFACTION GUARANTEE- Not happy with your purchase? Please let us know and we will gladly refund your purchase. BIORIFT aims to provide complete satisfaction for all customers.

**\$35.99**

& **FREE Shipping**. [Details](#) & **FREE Returns**

Arrives: **Jan 3 - 6**

Fastest delivery: **Tomorrow**  
Order within 5 hrs 1 min

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Qty: 1

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### Specifications for this item

Part Number	BioRFT
Brand Name	BioRift
Color	White
Size	12" Width x 22" Height
Specification Met	
UNSPSC Code	24121500

**Designer retail bags for your small business**

**Merchandise Bags 9x12 - Gold Roses Print - 100 Pack - Glossy Retail Bags - ...**

53

**\$23.99** ✓prime

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**Biodegradable Plastic T-Shirt Thank You Bags - 500/Case - Save Money Buy Bulk** **\$31.41**

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94

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**\$14.25**



Thank You Bags pk. of 1000-11 1/2" x 6" x 21" - Thickness .48mil HDPE-Standard Super...

255

**\$25.50**



Kingrol 500 Count Thank You Bags 1/6 BBL Plastic T-Shirt Bags, Thank You Grocery Ba...

2

**\$21.99**

Ad feedback

### What other items do customers buy after viewing this item?



Biodegradable Plastic T-Shirt Thank You Bags - 500/Case - Save Money Buy Bulk

27

**\$31.41**



[100 Pack] 1/6 Size Biodegradable Reusable Plastic T-Shirt Bag Eco Friendly Compostable

53

**\$13.95**



100 Compostable Biodegradable Shopping Bags - T-Shirt Style Carry Bags for Trash Or Grocery

31

**\$28.99**



Member's Mark T-Shirt Carry-Out Bags (1,000 ct.)

171

**\$17.34**

### Product description

| BioRift Biodegradables |

**\*\* Saving Our World, One Bag At A Time \*\***

BioRift Biodegradables are the future of Grocery bags because they are biodegradable & recyclable. Created from biodegradable additives that completely degrade under landfill conditions! These bags help to keep parks and landfills plastic-free.

**A Truly "Green" Solution:**

- BioRift's biodegradable T-Shirt bags contain a blend of mixtures that not only makes it biodegradable under landfill conditions but also makes it recyclable.
- Biodegradable in Landfills

**Do You Have Any Validations That Prove its Biodegradable?**

Yes! Our D5511 Validation is backed by science with validations to signify biodegradability under standard landfill conditions - the most common waste disposal method on Earth.

**Tell Me More!**

BioRift's biodegradable T-Shirt bags contains a blend of mixtures that not only makes it biodegradable under landfill conditions, but also makes it recyclable.

With so much competing information available, it's easy to understand how confusing and controversy exists around "green" initiatives and biodegradable plastics. However, once you separate the fact from fiction, the answer becomes clear – BIORIFT biodegradable solutions are one of the best ways to reduce pollution and help save our environment. While others may claim to offer comparable nature-friendly products, the reality is that most fall short. Many of these so-called "green" solutions offer little or no scientific evidence to prove their reliability. Others have stipulations as to how or where their products work best - usually not in the "real world" landfills that modern society depends on. BIORIFT is different. We create biodegradable plastic products that work for the way we live.

### Product details

**Shipping Weight:** 7.9 pounds ([View shipping rates and policies](#))

**Shipping Advisory:** This item must be shipped separately from other items in your order. Additional shipping charges will not apply.

**ASIN:** B07VGK RK22

**Average Customer Review:** 18 customer reviews

**Amazon Best Sellers Rank:** #8,073 in Industrial & Scientific ([See Top 100 in Industrial & Scientific](#))  
#30 in [Shopping & Merchandise Bags](#)

**Product Warranty:** For warranty information about this product, please [click here](#)

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255  
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Interplas MB-T-22TK-H Thank You Shopping Bags, 0.55 Mil, HDPE, 22-Inch Height, 11.5...  
**\$55.09**



YookeeHome 14" x 18" Large Merchandise Bags with Handles with Bottom Gusset, Pink a...  
75  
**\$25.99**



100 Compostable Biodegradable Shopping Bags - T-Shirt Style Carry Bags for Trash Or...  
**\$17.99**



200 Compostable Produce Bags Food Storage - 8 Inches by 13 Inches - Certified Bioba...  
1  
**\$23.00**

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### Customer Questions & Answers

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### Customer reviews

4.9 out of 5

20 customer ratings

5 star	<input type="text"/>	92%
4 star	<input type="text"/>	8%
3 star	<input type="text"/>	0%
2 star	<input type="text"/>	0%
1 star	<input type="text"/>	0%

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Top Reviews

mike m.

#### Environmentally friendly with no compromise

Reviewed in the United States on November 14, 2019

**Verified Purchase** **Early Reviewer Rewards** ([What's this?](#))

I got these for grocery shopping (2 time use) and then the 3rd time for garbage disposal.

They are slightly larger than the average bag, and much sturdier.

Sure, they cost a bit more, but guilt free use of disposable bags that decompose 7X faster makes them desirable, IME.

I also like to support small businesses that have a tough time competing with big corporations on price.

One person found this helpful

Helpful

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Ad feedback

H2ologist

**Sturdy bags**

Reviewed in the United States on December 4, 2019

**Verified Purchase**

My parents needed new bags for their shop so I started looking for more eco-friendly bags. These are thicker than the popular big box store bags so packing them full of products won't cause them to rip to shreds. The bags say they will decompose in 361 days in a standard landfill environment. They are a good price for 500 bags and I will be ordering again.

Helpful

Comment Report abuse

Laura

**So sturdy**

Reviewed in the United States on September 26, 2019

**Verified Purchase**

I do estate sales on the weekends and I have been using these bags. They are sturdy, as they are able to hold heavy items without being double-bagged or ripping. The fact that they are environmentally friendly are a huge bonus. Nicely packaged. Was surprised to get 500 bags for such a decent price.

Helpful

Comment Report abuse

Narut Ujnat [VINE VOICE](#)**These are nice bags.**

Reviewed in the United States on December 15, 2019

**Verified Purchase**

For t-shirt bags, which we find useful for using as trash bags, we had concerns about the bags we were using were not vert eco-friendly.

These bags come in a box of 500. The bags are thicker than I expected which is great. Overall: There are nice bags and a good deal.

Helpful

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Jennifer Doogan

**Way better than I expected**

Reviewed in the United States on October 30, 2019

**Verified Purchase**

I got these for our mini-trash can, wanted to see if they were actually strong. My Wife threw out old shoes, cat litter, and old books – no rips or leaks. These bags are practically bettr than our trash bags. I can see why the price is a bit high, but you get so many quality bags with 1 purchase. I've been wanting to use something like this for a long time, and I'm sorry I didn't think to look for a product like this sooner. I couldn't be happier with Biorift. My wife & I are always looking for more environmentally conscientious ways to do things, and these bags fit right into that concept.

Helpful

Comment Report abuse

Ross Fruhbeis

**Very durable and eco-friendly**

Reviewed in the United States on September 30, 2019

**Verified Purchase**

These bags are amazing. Never feel bad about using a plastic bags again. These are environmental friendly and are extremely durable. I used these bags to help me move small items when I moved. I

also use these bags to pick up after my dog goes to the bathroom. I have also brought these bags to my local super market to be used instead of their plastic bags. 5/5

Helpful

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Amanda

**Pleasantly surprised with these!!**

Reviewed in the United States on November 25, 2019

**Verified Purchase** **Early Reviewer Rewards** [\(What's this?\)](#)

I bought these bags for a vendor event we took part in recently. Our business is centered around eco-friendly products, so it was great to have shopping bags that fit this same purpose. I've tried several recycled plastic bags in the past, and they all seem to tear/rip very easily, so I was skeptical when ordering these. I was very surprised when I "tested" them though!! They are equal in strength to a standard Wal-Mart type grocery bag, maybe even a bit more sturdy! I will definitely be ordering again.

Helpful

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Gabriela Fischer

**LOVE THEM!!!**

Reviewed in the United States on October 29, 2019

**Verified Purchase** **Early Reviewer Rewards** [\(What's this?\)](#)


Love the quality of the bags. Definitely recommend them and I'll be buying them again.

Helpful

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Fashion Shopping Bag Large Reusable Grocery Bags

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