

# Oxo-Biodegradable Plastic



Oxo-biodegradable plastic is often referred to as “degradable” plastic, since it does not require a biological process to degrade. Microorganisms will speed up the degradation process, but they’re not required. This gives oxo-biodegradation a distinct advantage over prior methods for degrading plastic.

asi/74360

Available at  
**NO EXTRA CHARGE**  
on our full line of plastic bags

An oxo-biodegradable additive is blended into our plastic during the extrusion process.



# Frequently Asked Questions Degradable Plastic



## What do you use to make degradable plastic bags?

We use an oxo-biodegradable additive. This additive is blended into our plastic during the extrusion process.

## Are oxo-biodegradable bags recyclable?

Yes, oxo-biodegradable plastic bags are recyclable provided they have not degraded substantially.

## What happens to oxo-biodegradable plastic in a landfill?

Microorganisms present in a landfill will aid in the degradation process provided sufficient oxygen is present.

## Do oxo-biodegradable plastic bags contain cornstarch?

No, the oxo-biodegradable additive we use is a major advance over cornstarch based degradable additives. Degradable plastic using cornstarch based additives possess many undesirable properties. Specifically, plastic incorporating cornstarch based additives cannot be recycled, and contaminate the recycling process. They may also emit methane when degrading. Oxo-biodegradable plastics can be recycled along with regular plastic... and do not emit methane.

## Do oxo-biodegradable plastic bags feel different?

No, you will not notice a difference between oxo-biodegradable and regular plastic bags.

## Are oxo-biodegradable bags as durable as regular plastic?

Yes... during their useful life, oxo-biodegradable plastic bags are the same as regular plastic bags. You will not notice a difference until the bag has been exposed to UV light or heat for prolonged periods of time.

## What is the shelf life for your oxo-biodegradable plastic bags?

It takes about 2 years of exposure to one or more degradation promoters (sunlight, heat or microorganisms) for our bags to degrade. If the bags are kept inside, they will receive minimal or no exposure and will last much longer. It's likely they will remain usable for 5+ years if stored inside. You can think of them like paper bags. You don't see a paper bag degrade in your house, but when they become litter they degrade at a much faster rate.

## Will oxo-biodegradation emit methane?

No, unlike other degradation processes, oxo-biodegradation will not emit methane.

## Why does it take 2 years for the bags to degrade?

Oxo-biodegradable plastic degrades due to exposure to the elements (sunlight, heat and microorganisms). Two years is an estimation based on the average conditions. The actual amount of time required to degrade a bag will be longer or shorter depending on the amount of exposure.

## How can we show these plastic bags are oxo-biodegradable?

Either incorporate this information into your artwork, or you can request that we add our oxo-biodegradable plastic logo to your bags.



Distributed by: