


# Daily News

 Environment  UK News

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## Supermarket Looks to Scrap Plastic Bags

### Why is plastic pollution a problem?

- Plastic pollution is a big problem because many plastics are not biodegradable.
- That means they don't break down and rot away naturally.

One of the UK's biggest supermarket chains will trial using paper bags instead of plastic in eight of its stores.

Morrisons has said that, if its customers like the change, it will then remove all plastic bags from all of its shops.

In 2015, the government passed a law meaning that larger shops in England and all shops in Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales had to charge customers money for their plastic bags.

It proved very successful in cutting the use of **single-use** plastic bags. Government **statistics** say that the number **distributed** since then has dropped by 80%.

Stores, such as Asda, Aldi and Co-op no longer sell any single-use plastic bags.

However, many shops still sell bags for life which are made of plastic. They are designed to be used again and again and so reduce plastic waste.

Despite this, Morrisons says that some people are still throwing them away after only one use.

They hope that swapping the 90 million bags for life they sell each year with paper ones will be better for the environment.

Morrisons **chief executive**, David Potts, said, "We believe customers are ready to stop using plastic carrier bags." He added that people, "want to reduce the amount of plastic they have in their lives and keep it out of the environment."



Illustration: A paper shopping bag.

Plastic bags were invented in 1959 by an engineer called Sten Gustaf Thulin.

Paper bags had been common until then, but a lot of trees had to be cut down in order to make them.

According to Thulin's son, plastic bags were meant to be re-used not simply binned after one use. They would also be better for the environment as fewer trees would be cut down.

However, people did throw them away after one use. It meant plastic bags became, and still are, part of the plastic pollution problem we have today. However, many people and companies are making steps to fix the problems that plastics have created.

### Glossary

<b>single-use</b>	Items that are only used once.
<b>statistics</b>	Data gathered from a large section of people.
<b>distributed</b>	Shared or spread out.
<b>chief executive</b>	A person responsible for the running of a company.

