

Paper Bag Facts

Paper Bag Sizes and Shapes

Have you ever looked at a paper bag to see how it is made? All paper bags are made from a single, continuous roll of paper. A paper bag basically is a tube of paper, with a glued seam at the back or side and bottom.

Paper grocery bags come in a variety of paper weights from light (30 lb.) to heavy-duty (70 lb.) and 14 stock sizes, capable of holding 2 to 25 pounds. The standard paper grocery bag measures about 12 inches wide, 7 inches deep, and 17 inches tall. A shorter bag, measuring just 14 inches tall, is becoming increasingly popular. Today's paper grocery bags may also have a paper handle--on either the standard or shorter bag--making them easy to carry and reuse.

The Paper

Most paper bags are made from kraft paper. Kraft paper may be unbleached (brown) or bleached (white) and can be made in a wide variety of strengths or thickness (called "weight" by the industry).

Fast Food Bags

Paper bags are the ideal solution for fast food stores. The paper bags:

- Have good insulation properties, keeping food items hot.
- Allow the food to "breathe," letting moisture escape so french fries, burgers, chicken, and sandwiches don't get soggy.
- Are fast and easy for workers to fill.
- Offer superior promotional opportunities.
- Are recyclable and made from recycled content.

Other Paper Facts

- Every ton of paper that is recovered saves 3.3 cubic yards of landfill space.
- By 2012, the paper industry hopes to recover 55% of all the paper Americans consume.
- More than 36% of the fiber used to make new paper products in the United States comes from recycled sources.

To learn more about paper bags and brown paper products visit www.pssma.org