

# mint meter

Ditch the plastic and get your shopping fix guilt-free (ok well... almost!) as we review 10 of the cutest environmentally-aware bags on the shelf. Why go re-usable? Plastic = not fantastic. Plastic bags take up to 1,000 years to break down, and in that time release toxins into the environment and do serious damage to marine life. With Aussies using around 6.9 million of them each year, that amounts to a whole lotta free-range plastic. Give single use plastic bags the flick for good by stashing a few of these reusable bags in your purse - some with their own little footprint, but all worth their weight in green...

REVIEWS BY LANA GUINEAY

## MARKET TOTE [storeandcarry.etsy.com](http://storeandcarry.etsy.com)

Oh, Adelaide. We do love you and your plastic bag-banning ways. To keep their goods from spilling out all over the street, a crafty South Australian handmade this delightful little cotton number leaving the rest of Australia in shame. Very sturdy and rolls up with string ties.

## STUFFIT CARRY BAG [stuffit.com.au](http://stuffit.com.au)

Pink with a ribbon, which I like, being a girl. Could use a few unicorns and sparkles to go all the way into irredeemable girliness. Compact when folded away, pops out to reveal a powder-pink sack of pleasing proportions and hardiness. Great for supermarket dashes and of course girlie shopping.

## FLIP & TUMBLE [flipandtumble.com.au](http://flipandtumble.com.au)

Lycra casing reminds me of gym clothes. Despite this connotation of unnecessary physical activity, the flip & tumble redeems itself with its perfect medium size, comfy shoulder strap. Totally loving how it rolls up into a tiny ball - super easy to whip out and fold back in. A+

## MARKET BAG [pocketcarnival.com.au](http://pocketcarnival.com.au)

More tote than squishable bag, this fair trade, organic, and hand printed cotton tote is what all shopping bags should aspire to be: great size, stylish, and helplessly charming with its eco-cred and boy-bunny-dreaming-of-a-carrot design. Tote around your goods in spectacularly smug style.

## SAK IT TO ME - [envirotrend.com.au](http://envirotrend.com.au)

Why no "c", Sak it to Me? Spelling offences aside, bag is way cute, folding up into a teensy pouch complete with designer leaf motif. Good big size, scrunchy sound when touched, would be perfect for afternoon shopping mall blitz, could fit multiple outcomes of a spending spree cash-and-grab.

## NATTY RAT REUSABLE BAG BY NATALIE TAYLOR [goodconcepts.com.au](http://goodconcepts.com.au)

Handmade by a lovely Brisbane girl using recycled fabrics, this gets top marks as 'greenest' of the bunch. Looks like a small pillow; great design which folds out so original zippered case becomes base of bag. Delightfully handmade, I can practically feel the love in its threads. Awww.

## STRAWBERRY ([ebay.com.au](http://ebay.com.au))

You fail at being a human being if you don't find this bag cute. It turns into a STRAWBERRY. Need I say more? Yes? Well we fell in love with it on eBay and while it still has its own little footprint stomping all the way from Hong Kong alone, and quality leaves a little to be desired, it's worth it if it stops your single-use plastic bag addiction. Considering wearing it as a necklace; it's that adorable.

## ONYA [onyabags.com.au](http://onyabags.com.au)

Comes with a metal clasp attachment, makes me think of abseiling gear: suitable for the more active shopper prone to mad dashes to supermarkets at top of sheer cliff faces, in which unrestrained bags would be cast to the rocky outcrop metres below. Folds out into a nice red sack that feels like a parachute. Quality tough and bonus points for ocker name.

## ENVIROSAX [envirosax.com.au](http://envirosax.com.au)

Latest 'La Boheme' style from reusable bag queens Envirosax, made of durable light-weight polyester built for toughness, belied by a classy exterior complete with damask print and script writing - one of the largest of the bunch. It makes me vaguely inferior. Should a bag do that? Regardless, lovely all rounder.

## SCREWBALL [annabeltrends.com.au](http://annabeltrends.com.au)

With a name like that I immediately think of Bill Murray for some reason. Would Bill Murray like this bag? Without a doubt: not only is it a great size and pleasing shade of red, it could easily double as a ball for an impromptu game of lacrosse. Gimmicky? Sure. But c'mon, so was Groundhog Day. Do we love it any less? Hell no!