

# BYOB (BRING YOUR OWN BAG)

Taking your own bags to the farmers market is a great idea. It allows you to carry like items in the bags, and prevent cross-contamination. It also gets rid of all those plastic bags piling up in your house!

It's important to wash reusable totes often. According to a 2011 survey, only 15 percent of Americans regularly wash their bags. Unwashed bags can be a breeding ground for bacteria, which can easily contaminate any food that is placed in the bag. To eliminate the bacteria:

- Wash your totes, either in the washing machine or by hand with hot, soapy water. (Be mindful that the fabric may not be colorfast, so you may want to wash the bags by themselves).
- Clean the areas where you store or place your totes. After unloading, wash the countertop or table top.
- Store the totes in a clean, dry location.
- Avoid leaving empty totes in the trunk of a vehicle.



