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Press Release—

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1 Bag at a Time Bags are Safe

Los Angeles, Nov. 15, 2010: Recent testing by the county of Los Angeles shows that the lead level in bags from 1 Bag at a Time, Inc are far below the safety standard for reusable bags, general consumer products, and even children's toys.

Current safety levels allow 100 ppm (parts per million) of lead in consumer products. Recent tests show 1 Bag at a Time bags to have less than 5 ppm lead content.

Not all bags made in China are the same. 1 Bag at a Time Inc. is dedicated to sourcing a product that is safe for people and the planet. We control our supply chain from fabric to finish to ensure that our products meet every safety standard. Our manufacturers are monitored carefully and tested frequently using US testing companies and compliance specialists. Our care in choosing our factories and maintaining social and safety standards throughout our supply chain is key to our success in a consistently quality product.

We have exceeded safety standard testing done independently by the County of Los Angeles, Ralphs, Old Navy, Kashi, and many other companies. When stores want a high quality product, they turn to us, because we are bag specialists and we work hard to provide the best bag possible in every way.

A note about the recent report

When reading reports about lead levels in bags, keep in mind what Consumer reports says: consider the source before believing the conclusions.

The report out today is a vaguely worded study funded by the plastic industry who has partnered with Exxon and other industries to fight responsible bag use. These industries are spending hundreds of thousands of dollars on PR, politicians, and lawsuits against proposed legislation to ban or put a fee on plastic bags, such as the one up for a vote tomorrow by the Los Angeles County Supervisors.

The study making news today acknowledges that there is little chance of contamination, and it's hard to tell if the study is concerned with lead in the bag material, or the paint, or wear and tear. All of these issues are cited but no conclusive finding is reported. The study itself is not clearly cited or referenced in most media reports and the worries are very vague.



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The final Environmental Impact Report on Reusable bags issued by the LA County of Public works noted the heavy handed tactics used to fight a recent bill to ban plastic bags in California.

The report reads:

In August 2010, the American Chemistry Council (ACC), Exxon, and a South Carolina-based bag manufacturer, Hilex Poly Co., made a series of campaign donations to certain California lawmakers.¹⁵ Hilex Poly Co. also gave \$10,000 to the Democratic State Central Committee of California on August 5, 2010. The next day, Exxon gave the Republican Party \$10,000, among other donations it made. However, AB 1998 failed to achieve the number of votes required to pass the State Senate on August 31, 2010, and is currently no longer under consideration in California. Possibly worried that the bill may be resurrected in the future, plastic bag makers contributed campaign donations to California legislators into late October 2010.¹⁶

(Page 12-7 and 12-8. (pdf page 684) <http://dpw.lacounty.gov/epd/plasticbags/pdf/FinalEIR.pdf>)

The report also noted that plastic bag manufacturers “sued the County of Los Angeles over its voluntary Single Use Bag Reduction and Recycling Program as part of the Save the Plastic Bag Coalition.” When an industry spends money to fight a voluntary public service campaign, it’s a good sign that they are fighting to keep their industry alive at the expense of public safety.

Every study done by independent research organizations or governments have shown that reusable bags are best for people and the planet. Read some independent studies below.

- Consumer reports: <http://blogs.consumerreports.org/safety/2010/07/can-reusable-grocery-bags-make-you-sick-or-is-that-just-baloney.html>
- Green Cities California [Master Environmental Assessment \(MEA\) on Single Use and Reusable Bags](#). (see the [Executive Summary](#))
- Los Angeles Department of Public Works Overview of Plastic Bag impacts (<http://ladpw.org/epd/pdf/PlasticBagReport.pdf>)
- Environment Australia [“Plastic Shopping Bags: An Analysis of Levies and Environmental Impacts—Final Report,”](#)
- US Environmental Protection Agency [“Greenversations: Paper or Plastic or Reusable Bag?”](#)