



EMERALD KEEPERS

For an Emerald Green, Ocean Blue Coronado

ZERO ZIP-CLOSE BAGS

Zip-close plastic bags have become a staple in lunch boxes, refrigerators, and pantries since the 1970s. The average American family uses more than 500 zip-close bags annually, but although convenient they have a destructive impact on our environment and health.

DIFFICULT TO RECYCLE

Like plastic grocery bags, zip-close bags are made with a thin plastic film generated from fossil fuels. EDCO does not accept them for recycling and if placed in curbside recycling bins they can clog machines hindering the recycling process.

These plastic bags are tossed into trash and dumped in landfills where they remain for generations.

HARMFUL TO OUR HEALTH AND PLANET

Plastic bags degrade over centuries, but they never completely go away. The plastic breaks down into microplastic that permanently contaminates the soil, water, and air.



Studies show we eat about a credit card worth of plastic each week. Scientists have found microplastics in both the lungs and blood of people. Additionally, more than 15 million metric tons of plastic enters the ocean each year, endangering marine animals who mistake it for food.

PLASTIC BAG ALTERNATIVES

Using reusable containers instead of zip-close bags is a simple swap that can reap tremendous benefits.

Reusable sandwich and snack bags come in a variety of sizes and shapes and materials. Some are made of cloth with fun colors and designs and others are made of silicone. These bags can be washed and reused for years. Brands include Planet Wise, Itzy Ritzy, Bumkins, Nordic by Nature, Stashers and ZipTop.

Stainless steel containers are another alternative to plastic bags. They come in many shapes and sizes and have a rigid structure that better protects food. Some have sections, so you can pack an entire lunch in one container. Stainless steel is durable and easily cleaned in the dishwasher. Brands to look for include UKonserve, LunchBots, WeeSprout and GreenLunch.

Reusable bags and containers can be more expensive upfront, but will you save you money over time. One study found families could save \$250 per person per year using reusable options in a plastic-free lunch.

Strive for zero zip-close bags to keep Coronado Emerald Green, Ocean Blue.



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