

How does the price compare to plastic?

The new paper bags do cost from 7¢ to 10¢ more than the plastic bags most people used in the past. That means someone using 50 bags would, on average, spend less than \$5 more on bags. Still, the bags are cheaper than similar ones elsewhere, including the home improvement stores (which will also charge sales tax), and by using them residents ensure they will continue to have their bags picked up twice-per-year during the Southold Town Highway Department's seasonal yard waste cleanup program.

How do the paper bags hold up?

The bags are strong – they hold up to 60 lbs. They are also durable: they are made of heavy duty, wet-strength paper designed to last up to one month at the curb, in all weather conditions. In storage, the bags will last indefinitely.

Are they only for leaves, or can I use them for other kinds of waste?

The bags are specifically designed – and only required – for leaves left at the curb for the Highway Department's

cleanup program. You may bring leaves yourself to the compost site in the bags, but you do not have to. (If you bring leaves in plastic bags, however, you will be required to empty them.) The bags should not be used for other yard waste. OF COURSE, THE BAGS SHOULD NEVER BE USED FOR GARBAGE, LITTER, OR OTHER DEBRIS!

I've seen similar bags in stores. Can I use them, or must I buy only the Town's bags?

Any similar bags may be used so long as they are "wet-strength" treated paper bags. Many home improvement stores sell them, although they will cost more than the Town's bags and will include sales tax.

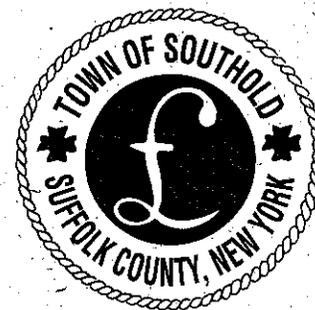


SOUTHOLD TOWN'S LEAF COMPOSTING PROGRAM

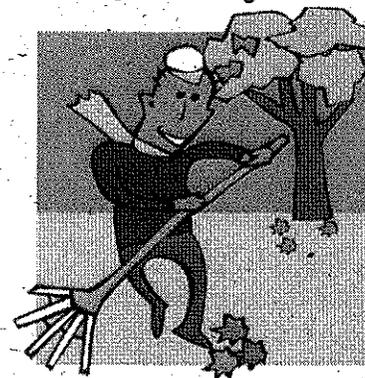
For a "Greener" Southold!

Questions? Go to
<http://southoldtown.northfork.net/>,
click on "waste disposal." Or call 734-7685.

Produced by Southold Town Department of
Solid Waste September 2008



*How can you turn "Brown"
into "Green"?
By using biodegradable
paper bags for your leaves!*



ABOUT SOUTHOLD'S PAPER LEAF BAG PROGRAM

September 2008

PRINTED ON 100% RECYCLED PAPER

Paper Leaf Bags contribute to the "greening" of Southold!

Southold Town is proud to contribute to the "greening" of our community through the use of...

Biodegradable Paper Leaf Bags.

In 2004 Southold Town became a pioneer in keeping an important natural resource... well, natural! That year, it began Long Islan'd first town-wide "paper leaf bag program" for bagged leaves brought to the compost facility in Cutchogue. This program has worked in Southold and is a key part of "going green" in many communities nationwide.

The Paper Bags are required for all bagged leaves placed out for pick-up by the Town Highway Department during the spring and fall cleanups **and** for bags left at the compost site by residents. (NOTE: if you bring your leaves to the compost site yourself you may use plastic, but the bags **MUST** be emptied at the site.)

PLASTIC BAGS ARE NOT PICKED UP, AND WILL BE LEFT BEHIND IF PLACED AT THE CURB!

NO PLASTIC BAGS!



How much do they cost and where can I buy them?

The bags cost 4¹/₂¢ each. They also come in 5 packs for \$2.35 each. Sales tax is **not** charged. They are available at the Transfer Station Office, the Town Clerks' Office, and the following retail outlets:

- Angels Country Store, East Marion
- Greenport IGA
- Harts Hardware, Southold
- Polywoda Beverage, Southold
- Patriot Gas, Greenport
- Southold IGA
- Southold 7-11
- Cutchogue 7-11
- King Kullen, Cutchogue
- Orłowski Hardware, Mattituck
- Handy Pantry, Mattituck

Paper leaf bags may also be available at other locations – check with your favorite store!

Why Paper Bags?

Better Service.

The paper will decompose with the leaves, allowing the Town to make more compost to give away to residents (500 lbs/year per person), or sell to offset costs.

Saves Money.

Leaves delivered in plastic bags cannot be de-bagged effectively and used for composting- they must be disposed of at a cost of more than \$30,000 per year of your tax dollars! **By the end of 2008 the leaf bag program will have saved the Town – AND the taxpayers – over \$150,000!!**

Environmentally Sound.

Eliminating plastic from the leaves enables the Town to produce a cleaner, more marketable compost - most of which will be used to improve the soils of farms, vineyards, and homeowners right here in Southold. This in turn should result in application of less chemical fertilizers in our Town, and reduce threats to our groundwater.