

Plastic Bags Are Very Strong!

It is amazing how strong some plastic bags are!

- The plastic bag that comes inside cereal boxes. This is, I believe, the strongest plastic bag around. Cleaned, folded, and secured with a rubber band, this is my choice for bringing home blueberry tarts from church. I like the look I get when I whip one of these out of my suit coat pocket!
- Cereal sold in plastic bags instead of cardboard boxes. These bags are tough, with good Zip-lock fasteners. The bags are good for items in backpacks, boating, and even water storage at camp (if you keep them upright).
- Freezer Bags. These are thicker than most Zip-lock bags. Designed to stand freezing, they are the Charles Atlas of commercial Zip-lock plastic bags. I use these in my backpack when kayaking. The pack gets wet; the bag contents don't.
- Grocery store plastic bags. Who was the genius that designed the grocery store plastic bag, strong enough to carry an 8-pound gallon of milk? Penny for penny, and ounce for ounce, these are some of the strongest things on the planet.
- Heavy-duty 35-gallon black plastic lawn bags. These come on a roll in a box, and they can carry a bag of leaves. Or clothing. Or life jackets. The heavy-duty bags tend to rip less than thinner bags.
- 55-gallon black plastic Contractor garbage bags. More sturdy than lawn bags, these can hold a lot of weight. In practice I double or triple these bags, one inside the other, to get even more strength. I floated my backpack across a river on these bags. They can also be cut to make tarps or canopies.

A few cautions:

- Leave any plastic bag in the Sun, and ultraviolet light will kill it.
- If you want to keep something dry, use new plastic bags.
- For more safety in wet conditions, put one Zip-lock bag inside another.