



Metropolitan Water Reclamation District *of* Greater Chicago

Press Release

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MWRD reminds holiday shoppers to carry reusable bags

As you finish your last minute holiday shopping, strive to be an environmentally-friendly customer by bringing your own reusable bag.

Stores give free disposable bags to customers as a short-term convenience, but there are long term consequences as it takes hundreds of years for just one plastic bag to decompose.

Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago (MWRD) Executive Director David St. Pierre said that the bags can be problematic to Chicago area waterways.

“Plastic bags are produced from low density polyethylene which does not degrade,” St. Pierre said. “We often find the bags in waterways. Besides being unsightly, they can clog drainage systems and contribute to flooding. Birds and fish can mistake plastic bags for food or become entangled in them.”

If you use plastic bags, make sure they don't end up in our water environment. Seek out local information about recycling of plastics and join in protecting our area waterways. It's our water environment...Take it personally.