



INFECTION CONTROL & PLASTIC BAG USE

With an increasing focus on infection control, bans on plastic bags have been temporarily lifted or halted as studies now show just how long the coronavirus can survive on various surfaces.

New Hampshire has just banned reusable shopping bags as it was found that the virus can survive for several hours on this surface. Studies from the University of Arizona and Loma Linda University found that the majority of shoppers hardly ever wash their reusable bags suggesting that shoppers might not even realize they're spreading the virus.

A recent study published in the New England Journal of Medicine found that the virus may last up to 2-3 days on plastic and stainless steel, while only up to 24 hours on cardboard. This stresses the importance of daily sanitizing routines both in the home and in essential businesses still operating during shelter-in-place orders in many states.

Fortunately, innovation has not been left behind during these tumultuous times. **Paper bags provide an eco-friendly alternative to plastic and reusable shopping bags at affordable prices,** allowing shoppers to feel at ease while out purchasing as viruses will not survive as long on this surface type.

It's important to remain vigilant during this ever-changing landscape by staying up to date on emerging news stories and scientific studies.

*Sources:

<https://www.bbc.com/future/article/20200317-covid-19-how-long-does-the-coronavirus-last-on-surfaces>

<https://grist.org/climate/one-state-just-banned-reusable-shopping-bags-due-to-covid-19/>

<https://hub.jhu.edu/2020/03/20/sars-cov-2-survive-on-surfaces/>