

## bazaar

A collection of food and kitchen-related finds...

## Jamie at Home



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## JAN 16 It's in the Bag! Plastic Bag Alternatives

by Jessica Wednesday, January 16, 2008 3:11 PM [Edit](#)



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It's nice to finally live in a world where I don't get sideways glances for bringing my own bags to the grocery store. Canvas bags have been available at most grocery stores for as long as I can remember, but now that they're oh-so-fashionable, new styles and colours are cropping up all over the place. I have to admit, I have been tempted to buy into some of these sexier bag alternatives, but for now I'm sticking with my standard canvas totes.

Take a look at some of these options:



### The Standard Grocery Store Totes

I grew up in a part of the country where "Sobey's bag" meant plastic bag, any plastic bag. But now Sobey's and other chains are changing the face of grocery bags by launching lines of re-usable bags. [These bags](#) (pictured here) have become the poster child for President's Choice chains. I don't think I've seen one of these grocery store totes priced at more than \$0.99. They're a bargain.

So is the end of plastic bags near? Well if you're still using plastic you might be out of luck if you shop at Whole Foods. The chain is [phasing out plastic bags all together](#).



### Fashionable Alternatives

The grocery store totes may not be the prettiest to carry around, so luckily for us, some enterprising entrepreneurs have come up with something for everybody. I like the variety offered by [Envirosax](#) (pictured here); there are a lot of fun colour and print choices. And the price isn't too bad either at \$8.50US

These [string totes by Ecobags](#) are a little pricier at \$10US and are available in many colours too. Good if you want to show off what you eat to the world; not so good if you just bought ice cream, chocolate sauce and chips (some groceries are private, after all).



### Bags with a Conscience

Some bags are attached to a cause, which is helpful if you want to feel good about more than the environment. Buying one of these World Food Programme [Feed Bags](#) can feed one hungry school child for one full year.

[Bazura bags](#) are a line of creative, multi-coloured bags made by a collective of women in the Philippines who take old juice containers and turn them into unique bags, purses and more. Their [Banner Tote](#) would be great for a grocery store trip.

**Have you made the switch to alternative bags, or are you still getting the plastic bags at the grocery store?** And what do you think of all these plastic bag alternatives? Share your thoughts below.

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