1. If you are in need of a quick lunch bag, plastic bags are a good idea.

2. Use them to dust off out-of-season shoes and out-of-favor stuffed animals stored in the closet.

3. Make parachutes for action figures to heighten the adventure at playtime. Cut out a square from a bag and poke a hole in each corner. Cut four pieces of string (or dental floss) at least a foot long and loop one through each hole; tie a knot to secure it. Tie the other end of each string around the toy.

4. Keep bags in the glove compartment to use as trash bags on road trips, or, if you have kids, for trips just down the road.

5. Donate them to food pantries, libraries, day-care centers or hospitals that take them.

6. Use them to stuff pet beds or throw pillows that have thick fabric covers.

7. When packing a suitcase, use them to keep shoes from soiling clothes and to separate dirty things from clean ones.

8. To protect small outdoor plants from frost at night, cover them with bags and tie the handles tightly around the pots. Be sure to take the bags off in the morning.

9. Wrap drinking glasses and other fragile items when you’re moving. A layer of three or four bags around each piece provides enough protection and won’t leave nasty newspaper ink or annoying pieces of Styrofoam all over everything.

10. Cover your car’s side mirrors and windshield wipers if you park outside in winter and you won’t have to scrape ice off in the morning.

11. Protect work surfaces at arts-and-crafts time. Slit bags up the sides, spread them out flat, tape them together and lay them across any table or surface that your kids are getting creative (i.e., making a mess) on.

12. Scoop the Litter Box — Flushing cat litter is a bit controversial, since cat waste contains toxins that are harmful to aquatic life, and, unfortunately, scooping is a fact of life for cat owners. You’ve got to put that smelly litter somewhere. You’re probably using a plastic bag already, so you may as well reuse one instead.

13. At Concerts — Amphitheater shows and multi-day music festivals come with a lot of waste, and the trash and recycle bins seem to always overflow by the end. Instead of piling your empties on top of an overflowing bin, use a plastic grocery bag to take your recyclables home at the end of the show.

14. Dog Waste — It’s only polite to pick up after your pet, and many areas even provide disposal areas for dog waste. Rather than grabbing the plastic bag provided, you can reuse a plastic bag that made its way into your house.

15. Use Them Again — It may not be as fancy as pulling out a canvas grocery tote, but if you’ve got a bunch of those plastic bags around the house, bring them to the store to tote another load of groceries home.

16. Line a Paint Tray — Next time you’re painting a room, use a plastic bag to line the paint pan, rather than a disposable plastic pan liner. It takes less plastic, and you’re reusing!

17. Protecting Valuables — Whether you’re packing breakables to move or storing them in the attic, you can wrap them up in plastic bags to cushion them against damage.

18. Protect Your Paint Brushes — If you’re taking a break from painting, you can wrap the brush in a plastic bag to keep it from getting dry and hard. Just stick the wrapped up brushes into the fridge until you’re ready to get back to it.

19. Small Trash Can Liners — Reuse a plastic bag to line small trash cans, like in the bathroom, instead of buying new plastic can liners.
20. Shipping — If you’re mailing something fragile, wrap it in plastic bags instead of new bubble wrap.

21. Gardening — Tie a couple of plastic bags around your knees to add some padding while you’re working in the garden.

22. Place your wet swim suits or other wet clothing inside plastic bags until you arrive home and can launder or hang them out to dry.

23. Use for puzzles or other items which have small parts that may get lost.

24. Place frozen ice packs in plastic bags to prevent condensation from “puddling” in your lunch bag.

25. When defrosting meats, place a paper towel in a plastic bag and put meats in the bag to prevent messy leaks and cleanups.

26. Fill several bags with food or other items for a needy family.

27. Carry bags with you to yard sales to carry your purchases home.

28. Wrap holiday decorations or fragile items for storage. Plastic bags can keep like things together and provide some padding when storing holiday items and other pretties you aren’t currently using.

29. Protect your hands. Next time you have to clean the toilet and your rubber gloves have gone missing, wrap your hands in the plastic bag your toilet paper came in.

30. For easy cleanup, place a plastic bag inside a bucket or pot next to your sink when you peel fruits or vegetables. You can quickly dispose of the bag or place peelingings in a compost pile.

31. Make “Plarn” – You can cut those bags up and make yourself a ball of plastic yarn for use in all sorts of knit and crochet projects. How cool would it be to upcycle a flimsy plastic bag into a well-made, crocheted one?

32. Use as a makeshift shower cap if you don’t want wet hair from showering.

33. Use bags as something to cover your shoes with if it starts raining heavily and your shoes can’t get wet.

34. Empty bagless vacuum cleaner contents into plastic bags. Tie a strong knot at the top to prevent the contents from spilling out, then dispose of appropriately.

35. Shove the bags inside shoes to help keep their shape while air drying or if you are storing them for seasonal use.

36. Create a disposable and cheap ice-pack by placing ice in a plastic bag and tying it shut.

37. Hang wet bath toys in a plastic bag with a few holes punched into it. Hang the bag by its handles over the faucet and the water in the toys will drip out, reducing the opportunity for mildew growth.

38. Turn the bags into water balloons and have fun dropping them. Don’t overfill or drop on people or animals, though, especially if the water balloon is large.

39. Cut plastic bags into streamer strips for parties. This works best with a variety of colors, unless you’re looking for a plain white or snow theme. To make the streamer as long as possible, cut from the open part on each side of the bag, not cutting the seam that joins the bag at the base.

40. Want a quickie manicure? Coat your hands with a moisturizer and cover them with plastic bags for 15 minutes. The plastic will keep in your body’s warmth, and your hands will emerge soft.

41. Sending a child to camp? Put each day’s outfit in a bag. It will make getting dressed in the morning a snap.

42. If you have a fruit tree in your yard, put a plastic bag around ripe fruits to keep them from falling off or getting damaged.

43. Braid bags to make a jump rope. Duct tape the ends to make the handles.

44. Instead of using embroidery floss, use plastic bags to braid friendship bracelets.

45. Reuse plastic bags to save on tissue paper and stuff the bottom of a gift bag.