



Plastic Bag Ban



Seattle's Single-Use Plastic Carryout Bag Ban Information for Retail Stores and Packaging Suppliers

Plastic Shopping Bags	Large Paper Shopping Bags	Smaller Paper Bags	Plastic Produce/Bulk Food Bags
	 5¢ (Charge required.)	 FREE (Charge optional.)	 ALLOWED

What the City of Seattle Law Requires:

Beginning July 1, 2012:

- All Seattle retail stores are prohibited from providing customers with single-use plastic carryout (shopping) bags, including those advertised as compostable, biodegradable, photodegradable or similar.
- Retail stores in Seattle may provide customers with any size recyclable paper or reusable carryout bags; however, stores must charge a minimum of 5 cents for paper carryout bags of 1/8 barrel (882 cubic inches) or larger. As a rule of thumb, these are typical grocery bags with a flat bottom greater than 60 square inches.
- Paper bag charge revenue is retained by stores, which at their discretion may charge for smaller sizes or provide them free. All paper bag charges must be shown on customer receipts.
- Bags to which the 5-cent charge applies must contain at least 40 percent post-consumer recycled fiber and display the minimum recycled content on the outside of the bag. Use of recycled fiber and labeling is encouraged for all sizes of bags.
- Bags of plastic 2.25 mil or thicker are deemed reusable and may be provided free or charged for at the store's discretion.



EXEMPTIONS & ADDITIONAL DETAILS 

Exemptions & Information

Exemptions from Seattle's Single-Use Plastic Carryout Bag Ban:

- Customers using vouchers or electronic benefit cards from state or federal food assistance programs for grocery purchases are exempt from the 5-cent paper bag charge.
- Plastic bags used in stores for bulk items or to protect vegetables, meat, fish and poultry, frozen foods, flowers, deli foods and similar where moisture would be a problem are exempt.
- Plastic bags for take-out orders from restaurants are allowed, though use of recyclable paper bags is encouraged.
- Dry-cleaner, newspaper, and door-hanger bags and plastic bags sold in packages containing multiple bags intended for use as garbage bags or to contain pet waste, or approved compostable food and yard waste bags are exempt.

Bags Still Allowed



Produce/Meat

Bulk Foods



Newspaper

Dry Cleaning

Door Hanger



Take-out Food

Paper Bags

Encouraged: Reusable Carryout Bags

- There is no entirely objective measure for when a carryout bag may be deemed reusable; however, it would be hard to say that a bag that fails within 10 uses is truly reusable within the intent of Seattle's ordinance, and 20 repeat uses would seem a reasonable bench mark.



Seattle
 Public
Utilities

For interpretation services please call 206-684-3000.

如需要口譯服務，請撥電話號碼206-684-3000。

통역 서비스를 원하시면 206-684-3000으로 전화하세요.

Wixii turjubaan afka ah ku saabsan, Fadlan la soo xariir taleefoonka: 206-684-3000.

Para servicios de interpretación por favor llame al 206-684-3000.

Para sa serbisyo ng tagapagpaliwanag, tumawag sa 206-684-3000.

Về dịch vụ phiên dịch xin gọi 206-684-3000.