

Washington State Bag Requirements

For Retailers, Grocers, Restaurants, and other Businesses



NO
**Single-use Plastic
Carryout Bags**



8¢ charge
**Large Paper
Carryout Bags**

Made with 40% recycled content. Charges must be retained by the business.



8¢ charge
**Thick Reusable Plastic
Carryout Bags**

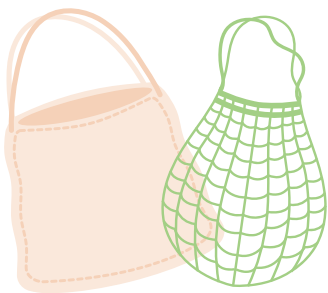
Made with 40% recycled content and a minimum of 2.25 mil thick film. Charges must be retained by the business.



Charge optional
**Compostable Carryout
Bags Allowed but
Not Recommended**

Green or brown tinted film bags **must** be compostable.

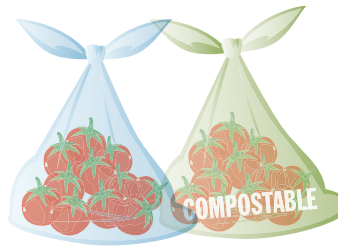
Other bags ALLOWED:



**Durable
Reusable Bags**



Small Paper Bags



**Produce, Meat, Bulk Foods,
Bakery Goods, etc.**



**Flowers, Drycleaning,
Newspaper Bags, etc.**



bagban@ecy.wa.gov | (360) 407-6000
Ecology.wa.gov/Bag-Ban



**Seattle
Public
Utilities**



SPU Green Business
Program providing support
to Seattle businesses.

GreenBusiness@Seattle.Gov | (206) 343-8505
seattle.gov/utilities/GreenYourBusiness

Details of the Washington State Bag Law

Grocery and Retail Notes

- Stores may not provide customers with single-use plastic carryout bags.
- The bag ban applies to restaurants, grocery stores, retail stores, convenience stores, farmers markets, food trucks, temporary stores, and home delivery services. Food banks are exempt.
- If you have questions about whether your business must comply with this ban, please contact bagban@ecy.wa.gov.
- Stores must charge a minimum charge of 8 cents for large paper bags. (1/8 barrel paper bags 882 cubic inches or larger) and reusable plastic bags (2.25 mil or thicker).
- The large paper bags for which customers are charged must contain at least 40% postconsumer recycled content with the bag's postconsumer recycled content printed on the outside of the bag.
- As of July 1, 2022, the reusable plastic film bags for which customers are charged must contain at least 40% postconsumer recycled content with the minimum percentage of postconsumer recycled content, the mil thickness, and the word "Reusable" printed on the outside of the bag.
- Stores may provide smaller paper bags. Charge is optional.
- The bag charge is a taxable retail sale and must be shown on a receipt provided to the customer. Stores must keep all revenue from bag charges.
- Stores may provide certified compostable carry-out bags. Charge is optional.
- Any green or brown tinted film bag must be certified compostable.
- Stores may not provide customers with bags with misleading labels such as "biodegradable," "degradable," "decomposable" or similar.
- Stores may provide customers with in-store plastic or compostable bags.
- Bags allowed for use by customers in stores include those used for bulk items, produce, meat, or other items such as: hardware, frozen foods, flowers and plants, unwrapped prepared foods, bakery goods, and prescription drugs.
- Individuals may report businesses that are not in compliance with the ban using an online form provided by Department of Ecology.
- Businesses may not charge the bag charge to customers using/showing a voucher or benefits card (SNAP, WIC, TANF, FAP).

Questions?

baginfo@ecy.wa.gov or (360) 407-6000

Help your
customers protect
the environment
and reduce
plastic litter.



Visit the WA Ecology
website to view,
customize, and print
educational BYOB
items today.

ecology.wa.gov/bag-ban