Washington State Bag Requirements

For Restaurants and other Food Service 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 20% 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:**

- Clean Reusable Tote
- Small Paper Bags
- Small Bags for Moisture Control

(360) 407-6000  |  bagban@ecy.wa.gov  |  Ecology.wa.gov/Bag-Ban
Restaurant and Food Service Business Notes:

- Restaurants may not provide customers with single-use plastic carryout bags.
- The bag ban applies to all restaurants, grocery delis, convenience stores, prepared food vendors, farmers markets, food trucks, event food vendors, food courts, temporary restaurants, delivery, or take-out foods. Food banks are exempt.
- If you have questions about how your business must comply with this ban, please contact bagban@ecy.wa.gov.
- Restaurants must charge a minimum 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.
- The reusable plastic film bags for which customers are charged must contain at least 20% 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.
- Restaurants may provide smaller paper bags. Charge is optional.
- Restaurants may use a small film bag to contain liquid filled containers before placing into allowed carryout bags.
- The bag charge is a taxable retail sale and must be shown on a receipt provided to the customer. Restaurants must keep all revenue from bag charges.
- Restaurants may provide certified compostable carry-out film bags for an optional charge. These are not recommended for most areas in Washington.
- Any green on brown tinted bag must be compostable.
- Restaurants may not provide customers with bags with misleading labels such as “biodegradable,” “degradable,” “decomposable” or similar.
- 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

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