Washington State
Bag Requirements
EFFECTIVE JAN 1, 2021
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 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:

Durable Reusable Bags
Small Paper Bags
Produce, Meat, Bulk Foods, Bakery Goods, etc.
Flowers, Drycleaning, Newspaper Bags, etc.
**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.
- 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.
- 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 on brown tinted film bag must be 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.

BYOB Bring Your Own Bag.

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

ecology.wa.gov/bag-ban