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 20% recycled content and a minimum of 2.25 mil thick film. Charges must be retained by the business.

Other bags ALLOWED:

Durable Reusable Bags
Small Paper Bags
Produce, Meat, Bulk Foods, Bakery Goods, etc.
Flowers, Drycleaning, Newspaper Bags, etc.

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

Eco-friendly shopping bags can help reduce plastic waste.