

# 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. Charge is retained by the business.



**12¢ charge**  
**Thick Reusable Plastic  
Carryout Bags**  
Made with 40% recycled content and 2.25 mil thick film. Charge is retained by the business.

## Other bags ALLOWED:



**Clean Reusable Tote**



**Small Paper Bags**



**Small Bags for Moisture Control**



DEPARTMENT OF  
**ECOLOGY**  
State of Washington

(425) 698-3722 | [bagban@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:bagban@ecy.wa.gov) | [Ecology.wa.gov/Bag-Ban](https://ecology.wa.gov/Bag-Ban)

To request an ADA accommodation, contact Ecology by phone at 425-698-3722, by email at [bagban@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:bagban@ecy.wa.gov), or visit <https://ecology.wa.gov/accessibility>. For Relay Service or TTY call 711 or 877-833-6341.

If you speak a non-English language, free language services are available.

# Details of the Washington State Bag Law

## 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](mailto: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 12 cents for reusable plastic bags (2.25 mil).
- NEW: For plastic bags that are 4 mil thick or greater, an additional 4 cent charge must be applied to the 12 cent charge to customers (16 cents total). The 4 cent penalty must be deposited into the Washington State waste reduction, recycling and litter control account under RCW 70A.200.140. Effective January 1, 2026 until December 31, 2027.
- 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 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.
- 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 fillm 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 a voucher or benefits card (SNAP, WIC, TANF, FAP).

## Questions?

[bagban@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:bagban@ecy.wa.gov) or (425) 698-3722

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](https://ecology.wa.gov/bag-ban)

[Ecology.wa.gov/Bag-Ban](https://ecology.wa.gov/bag-ban)

To request an ADA accommodation, contact Ecology by phone at 425-698-3722 or email at [bagban@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:bagban@ecy.wa.gov), or visit <https://ecology.wa.gov/accessibility>. For Relay Service or TTY call 711 or 877-833-6341.

If you speak a non-English language, free language services are available.

# 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



**12¢ charge**  
**Thick Reusable  
Plastic Carryout Bags**

Made with 40% recycled content  
and 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**



DEPARTMENT OF  
**ECOLOGY**  
State of Washington

**(425) 698-3722 | [bagban@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:bagban@ecy.wa.gov) | [Ecology.wa.gov/Bag-Ban](http://Ecology.wa.gov/Bag-Ban)**

To request an ADA accommodation, contact Ecology by phone at 425-968-3722 or email at [bagban@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:bagban@ecy.wa.gov), or visit <https://ecology.wa.gov/accessibility>. For Relay Service or TTY call 711 or 877-833-6341.

If you speak a non-English language, free language services are available.