

Washington State Bag Requirements

For Retailers, Grocers, Restaurants, and other Businesses



NO
**Single-use Plastic
Carryout Bags**

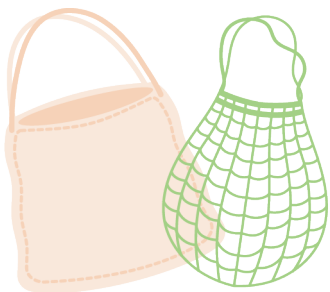


8¢ charge
Large Paper Carryout Bags
Made with 40% recycled content.
Charges must be retained by the business.



12¢ 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

Other bags ALLOWED:



**Durable
Reusable Bags**



Small Paper Bags



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



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



DEPARTMENT OF
ECOLOGY
State of Washington

(425) 698-3722 | 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 or email at 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

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 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.
- 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 a voucher or benefits card (SNAP, WIC, TANF, FAP).

Questions?

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

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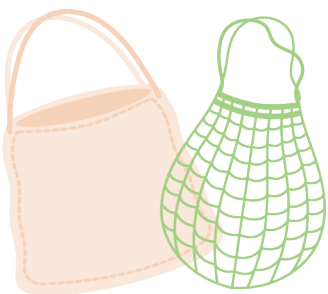
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Charge optional
Compostable Carryout Bags Allowed but Not Recommended

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

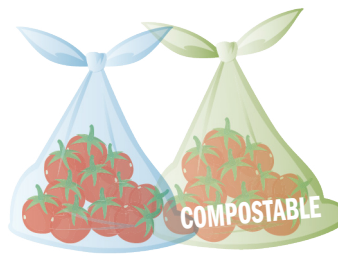
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