WA Single-Use Plastic Bag Ban

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Agenda

- Implementation timeline
- Overview of law
- Resources
- Enforcement
- Preview 5022 Plastics Laws
- Questions
Implementation Delays

- Originally scheduled January 1, 2021
- COVID-19 Delays
- Governor’s Proclamation and Senate Resolution
- Amended proclamation – bag ban effective October 1, 2021
Overview of Requirements

- Prohibits single-use plastic carryout bags
- Requires 8 cent charge for all retail-provided bags
- Requires 40% post-consumer recycled content
  - OR wheat straw renewable fiber in large paper bags*
- Requires 20% post-consumer content in 2.25 mil plastic bags
- Applies to restaurants, farmers markets, retail stores, grocers, convenience stores, etc.
- Bags must meet tinting and labeling requirements of RCW 70A.455 & 70a.360

*Substitute house bill 1145
Not Included in the Ban

- Bags used in-store for bulk items
- Green or brown compostable bags used in store*
- Newspaper/dry-cleaning/door-hanger bags
- Bags sold in packages containing multiple bags (garbage, pet waste)
- Bags used to wrap items for sanitation or safety purposes

*Must meet labelling requirements in RCW 70a.360 and 70a.455
Important Notes and Exemptions

• SNAP, EBT, WIC, & TANF customers exempt*

• Food banks are exempt

• Single-use bag receptacles not allowed

• Businesses keep the .08 cent fee

• Customer receipt must show .08 cent fee

*Even if using another method of payment at purchase
Resources

- Ecology website
- Manufacturer/Distributor Contact Lists
- Outreach toolkit
  - Designed with stakeholder input
  - Accessible
  - Available in 17 languages
  - Downloadable and customizable
Outreach for Businesses

Washington State Bag Requirements

For Retailers, Grocers, Restaurants, and other Businesses

NO
Single-use Plastic Carryout Bags

Be charge
Large Paper Carryout Bags
Made with 100% recycled content. Charges to the customer are not permitted.

Be charge
Thick Reusable Plastic Carryout Bags
Made with 100% recycled content. Charges to the customer are not permitted.

Charge optional
Compostable Carryout Bags Offered but Not Recommended
Grocery or non-food items only. Bag must be compostable.

Other bags ALLOWED:

- Reusable Tote Bags
- Small Paper Bags
- Produce, Meat, Bulk Foods, Bakery Goods, etc.
- Newspapers, Magazines, Newspapers Bags, etc.

Details of the Washington State Bag Law

Grocery and Retail Notes:
- Stores may not provide customers with single-use plastic carryout bags.
- The bag must agree to rejections, grocery stores, retail stores, convenience stores, farmers markets, food stalls, 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 baginfo@ecy.wa.gov.
- Stores must charge a minimum charge of 10% for single paper bags.
- (i) Corrugated paper bags that are round or square and are not recyclable (2.56 sq in or less).
- (ii) The large paper bags that are round or square and are not recyclable (2.56 sq in or less).
- The large paper bags for which customers are charged must contain at least 25% post-consumer recycled content in the bag and post-consumer recycled content printed on the outside of the bag.
- The recyclable plastic thin bags for which customers are charged must contain at least 60% post-consumer recycled content with the recyclable plastic bag of post-consumer recycled content. The ink must be recyclable, and the word “recyclable” must be printed on the outside of the bag.
- Stores may provide smaller paper bags. Charges are optional.
- The bag charge is a tax and is not exempt from a receipt provided to the customer. Stores must keep all revenue from bag charges.
- Stores may not provide customers with carryout bags. Charges are optional.
- Any charges on brown biodegradable paper must be comparable.
- Stores may not provide customers with bags with embellishments in the bags such as decorative ribbons, “decoration paper” or similar.
- Stores may provide customers with in-store plastic or compostable bags.
- Bags allowed by use-by customers in stores that include these used for take home, produce, meat, or other items such as groceries, housing, products, flowers, plants, unprocessed prepared foods, bakery goods, and prescription drugs.
- Individual requests may be received for the items 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 travel reward.

Questions?
baginfo@ecy.wa.gov or (360) 407-6000

Ecology.wa.gov/Bag-Ban

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
Outreach to Public

WA State Bag Requirements

- **NO** Single-use Plastic Carryout Bags
- **8¢ charge** Large Paper Carryout Bags
- **8¢ charge** Thick Reusable Plastic Carryout Bags
- **BYOB** Please Bring Your Own Clean Reusable Bags
- **Charge optional** Compostable Carryout Bags Allowed

For more information and details please visit Ecology.wa.gov/Bag-Ban

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WASHINGTN STATE PLASTIC BAG BAN

BYOB
Bring Your Own Bag.

- **NO** Single-use Plastic Carryout Bags
- **REUSABLE** Paper Bag
- **REUSABLE** Thick Plastic Film Bag
- **PRODUCT** Biodegradable Bag
- **KEEP REUSABLE BAGS CLEAN
- **DON'T FORGET YOUR BAG**

For information, reporting, and complete listing of law's requirements please visit Ecology.wa.gov/Bag-Ban
Washington StateWide Plastic Bag Ban


日本語: プラスチック袋の使用が禁止されています。再利用可能な袋を使用することを推奨しています。

한국어: 플라스틱 봃사의 사용이 금지됩니다. 재사용 가능한 봃사의 사용을 권장합니다.

فارسی: استفاده از بسته‌بندی‌های پلاستیک در واشنگتن ممنوعه است. استفاده از بسته‌بندی‌های میانگین را بررسی نمایید.

Traditional Chinese: 禁止使用塑膠袋。建議使用可重複使用的袋子。

Hindi (हिंदी): तस्वीर की तरह जो कुछ नया भी जाने वाला है तो उसे प्रयोग किया जा सकता है। हालांकि, नए और पुराने दोनों के लिए वही प्रतिकारजनक दृष्टिकोण रखना चाहिए।

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Enforcement

1st Complaint
- Educational mailer – explains law

2nd Complaint
- Educational mailer - explains law and possibility of enforcement

3rd Complaint
- Warning letter - Warns that another complaint received will result in inspection

4th Complaint
- Inspection and Notice of Violation

5th Complaint
- Potential fines - up to $250 per day in violation
Washington is Reducing Plastic Pollution and Improving Recycling

1. Expanded Polystyrene Ban
   - Food Service Packaging
   - Recreational Coolers
   - Packaging Peanuts

2. On Request Only
   - Single-Use Utensils
   - Straws
   - Condiment Packages
   - Cold Beverage Lids

3. Promote More Efficient Recycling by Removing Confusing Logo Requirement

4. Minimum Recycled Content
   - Containers for:
     - Beverages
     - Personal Care Products
     - Cleaning Products
     - Trash Bags

Senator Mona Das
Senate Bill Sponsor
Representative Liz Berry
House Bill Champion
Plastic Postconsumer Recycled Content

• Beverage bottles (2023)
• Trash bags (2023)
• Household cleaning & personal care products in plastic bottles (2025)
• Beverage bottles – dairy & wine 187ml (2028)
Single-use items on request

• January 2022
• Stakeholder outreach
• Outreach materials
• Partnerships
Bans certain expanded polystyrene

- June 2023
  Packing peanuts
- June 2024
  Recreational coolers
  Food containers (like plates, clamshells, hot and cold beverage cups)
Questions

General and Recycled Content
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Expanded Polystyrene Ban
Heather.Church@ECY.WA.GOV

Bag Ban & Single-Use Items on Request
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