

Frequently Asked Questions

Why has the City of Calabasas banned single-use plastic carryout bags?

The intent of the Single-use Carryout Bag Ordinance is to significantly reduce the environmental impacts related to single-use plastic and paper carry out bags and promote a major shift towards the use of reusable bags.

Is there any exception to this ban?

- The Ordinance does NOT prohibit the distribution of plastic “product bags” such as those distributed within a grocery store for bagging produce or meat.
- Stores are required to provide customers participating in the Supplemental Food program with a reusable bag or recycled paper bag at no cost at the point of sale.

What stores are required to charge 10 cents for each recycled paper bag?

All grocery stores, convenience stores, minimarts, liquor stores, drug stores and pharmacies are prohibited from providing free distribution of single-use paper and plastic carryout bags. If these stores decide to make paper carryout bags available for their customers, they are required to sell recycled paper carryout bags made from 100% total recycled content with 40% post-consumer recycled content for not less than 10 cents per bag.

Why is there a \$0.10 fee on recycled paper carryout bags?

The fee of \$0.10 on recycled paper carryout bags encourages the use of reusable bags. This cost pass-through reimburses retailers for the costs of providing recycled paper carry out bags to their customers. All of the revenue from the cost pass-through remains with the store.

How do I avoid paying 10 cents for each recycled paper bag?

It's easy! Remember to bring your own reusable bags to the store. Some stores will even offer you a credit or gift for bringing your own bag!

How should I care for my Reusable Bag?

The best reusable bags are the ones that can be used over and over again and are machine washable in order to be cleaned properly to prevent germs from accumulating. Wash them as often as you would wash towels or a cutting board. Many people choose to designate different styles of bags for different types of products, such as separate bags for animal products and produce vs. dry goods. Some reusable bags can't be placed in the washing machine. If you choose to purchase these bags check the manufacturer's instructions for disinfecting and cleaning them.

How are single-use plastic carryout bags harmful to the environment?

- They are consumed in extremely high volumes
- They are produced from non-renewable resources
- They are designed to be disposable (rather than reusable)
- Difficult to recycle. Less than 5% of the 19 billion (19,000,000,000) plastic bags used annually in California are actually recycled

LEARN MORE ABOUT PLASTIC BAGS AND RE-USABLE OPTIONS

www.cawrecycles.org
www.cleangreenbags.com
www.epa.gov
www.kidsforacoolerplanet.com

CITY OF CALABASAS

SINGLE-USE PLASTIC CARRY-OUT BAG BAN



SINGLE-USE PLASTIC CARRY-OUT BAG BAN

Calabasas has joined the growing ranks of municipalities encouraging residents to bring reusable bags when shopping. On February 9, 2011, the Calabasas City Council passed Ordinance No. 2011-282 to ban the use of single-use carryout plastic bags that pollute our environment and constitute a high percentage of litter across the country.

As of **July 1, 2011**, shoppers will no longer receive disposable plastic bags while shopping at Calabasas supermarkets: Albertsons, Gelson's, Maddy's Market, and Ralphs and Rite Aid.

As of **January 1, 2012**, smaller drug stores, convenience food stores, smaller retail stores and grocers will stop offering disposable plastic bags.

Shoppers are encouraged to use reusable shopping bags whenever possible. Please note that small plastic bags will still be available in stores for fruits and vegetables.



Under the terms of the new law, stores will have reusable bags available for sale and will also offer recyclable paper bags for 10 cents each in lieu of customers bringing their reusable bags or simply carrying items purchased without a bag. The fees collected from bag sales will only go towards helping stores comply with the new law.

Lower income residents who participate in the California Special Supplemental Food Program for Women, Infants, and Children program will receive either reusable bags or recyclable paper bags for free.

PLASTIC BAGS FACTS

- Plastic bags make up 0.4% of the litter stream, but up to 25% of the waste stream
- Californians use about 19 billion plastic bags per year, 6 billion consumed in Los Angeles County alone.
- Less than 5% of plastic bags are recycled at a cost that is much higher than the cost of producing new plastic bags.
- The average "free" single-use bag is used 12 minutes before being released as pollution in the environment or waste into the landfill.
- According to the State of California, the current projected annual cost to public agencies in California for litter prevention, cleanup, and disposal is approximately \$375 million.



HOW CAN YOU HELP?

- No carryout bag - Few, small items that can be carried by hand; Items with handles; or Items packed back into shopping carts/baskets
- Customer-owned clean carryout bag, box, cart, or basket
- Store-purchased carryout bag (paper or reusable)

**BYOB:
Bring Your
Own Bag.
You carry
the future!**



Bag Ban Key Points (R + E + D + U + C + E)

- R**educe use of single-use bags: The bag ban prohibits single-use plastic carryout bags (flimsy, lightweight plastic bags)
- E**ncourage the use of reusable bags: The average consumer in America uses 500 plastic bags each year.
- D**o purchase bags made with recycled content and that are reusable: In the United States, about 14 million trees are cut down to make paper bags annually.
- U**nderstand impacts: Plastic bags are produced from non-renewable resources. Less plastic and paper bags means more conservation of our limited resources. Use fewer resources by complying with the ban.
- C**ut costs: "Free" single-use bags are costly and the cost is passed onto consumers at checkout, and taxpayers pick up the bill for litter clean-up.
- E**liminate Waste: Most "free" plastic or paper bag are used for 12 minutes before being released as pollution into the environment or as waste into the landfill. Less than 5% of the 19 billion plastic bags used each year in California are recycled.

Frequently Asked Questions

What kind of plastic bag is banned?

Plastic carryout bags include any bag made of plastic (from any source), which is provided to the customer at the point of sale.

What kind of plastic bag is NOT banned?

Produce bags and Product bags are bags without handles used exclusively to carry produce, meats, or other food items to the point of sale or to prevent such food items from coming into direct contact with other purchased items.