

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.



8¢ charge
**Thick Reusable Plastic
Carryout Bags**
Made with 40% recycled content and a minimum of 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 | [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, 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.
- Restaurants must charge a minimum 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.
- 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 film 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/showing 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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Charge optional
Compostable Carryout
Bags Allowed but Not
Recommended

Green or brown tinted film bags
must be compostable

Other bags ALLOWED:



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