

Discussion of Ordinance No. 941 Repeal of SMC 9.25 Retail Plastic Bag Regulations

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New Statewide Plastic Bag Ban

- Chapter 70A.530 RCW applies to:
 - All retail, grocery, and convenience stores
 - Any restaurant or establishment offering take-out or delivery food or goods
 - Temporary stores or vendors
 - Any event where food or goods are sold or distributed



Plastic Bag Ban Details



NO
**Single-use Plastic
Carryout Bags**



8¢ fee
**Large Paper
Carryout Bags**
Made with 40%
recycled content



8¢ fee
**Thick Reusable Plastic
Carryout Bags**
Made with 20% recycled
content and a minimum
of 2.25 mil thick film



Fee optional
**Green or Brown
Compostable Bags**
Any green or brown tinted film
bags **must** be compostable

What's Not Included

Single-use plastic bags used inside stores for:

- Packaging bulk items
- Containing items to address dampness/sanitation
- Containing unwrapped prepared food or bakery goods
- Containing prescription drugs

Also Exempt:

- Newspaper bags
- Mailing pouches
- Sealed envelopes
- Door hanger bags
- Dry cleaning bags
- Bags sold in packages with multiple bags

Bag Type	Allowed?	Charge	Requirements
 Single-use Plastic Carryout Bags	 Not allowed	N/A	All single-use plastic carryout bags are banned.
 Larger Paper Carryout Bags	 Allowed	\$0.08	Must have a minimum of 40 percent post-consumer recycled content. Must meet composting requirements.
 Thick Reusable Plastic Carryout Bags	 Allowed	\$0.08	Must be made of plastic film containing 20 percent post-consumer recycled content. Must be at least 2.25 mil thick; may not be green or brown tinted. May not contain the words “biodegradable,” “degradable,” or “decomposable.”
 Compostable Bags	 Allowed	Allowed	Because Seattle has access to a commercial compost facility, Seattle businesses can use thin compostable bags. Your business can choose whether to charge \$0.08 for these bags.
 Green or Brown Plastic Produce Bags	 Not allowed	None	Only compostable bags can be tinted green or brown. No bag can use the following misleading labels: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Biodegradable” • “Decomposable” • “Degradable”
 Plastic Produce Bags	 Allowed	None	Plastic produce bags are exempt from the ban.
 Small Paper Bags	 Allowed	None	Stores are not required to charge for small paper bags but may at their discretion.
 Bring Your Own Reusable Bags	 Allowed	None	None.



Key Changes for Local Retailers

- Pass through fee increases from \$0.05 to \$0.08, for both paper and plastic bags
- 20% PCR content required for thick reusable plastic bags
- Single-use plastic bags not allowed for take-out foods and liquids
- New reporting platform for non-compliance:
[Ecology.wa.gov/Bag-Ban](https://ecology.wa.gov/Bag-Ban)

Notification to Retailers

- Ecology has primary obligation:
 - Website : Ecology.wa.gov/Bag-Ban
 - Working with retail establishments, associations, unions, etc.
- Department of Revenue special notice
- City notices via mail and online channels

SMC Chapter 9.25

- RCW 70A.530 preempts SMC Chapter 9.25 Retail Carryout Bag Regulations that were originally enacted in April 2013.
- Ordinance No. 941 repeals Chapter 9.25 in its entirety.

Questions?

