

Plastic Bag Ban

Monterey's Single-Use Plastic Carryout Bag Ban

Information for Retail Stores and Packaging Suppliers

Plastic Shopping Bags



Large Paper Shopping Bags



**10¢
charge
required**

Allowed



Produce/Meat
Newspaper
Dry Cleaning
Door Hanger
Take-out Food
Small Paper Bags

What the City of Monterey ordinance requires, **beginning July 1, 2012:**

- All Monterey retail stores are prohibited from providing customers with single-use plastic carryout (shopping) bags, including those advertised as compostable, biodegradable, photodegradable or similar.
- Retail stores in Monterey may provide customers with any size recyclable paper or reusable carryout bags; however, stores must charge a minimum of 10 cents for paper carryout bags.
- Paper bag charge revenue is retained by stores, which at their discretion may charge for smaller sizes or provide them for free. All paper bag charges must be shown on customer receipts.
- Bags to which the 10-cent charge applies must contain at least 40 percent post-consumer recycled fiber and display the minimum recycled content on the outside of the bag. Use of recycled fiber and labeling is encouraged for all sizes of bags.

EXEMPTIONS AND ADDITIONAL DETAILS

Exemptions

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Exemptions from Monterey's Single-Use Plastic Carryout Bag Ban:

- Plastic bags used in stores for bulk items or to protect vegetables, meat, fish and poultry, frozen foods, flowers, deli foods and similar where moisture would be a problem are exempt.
- Dry cleaner, newspaper and door hanger bags.
- Restaurants or take-out food establishments that receive 90% or more of its revenue from the sale of food that is prepared on premises.
- Non-profit charitable re-users that re-use or recycle donated goods or materials and receives more than 50% of this revenue from the sale of them.
- A retail establishment may provide a customer participating in the California Special Supplement Food Program for women, infants, and children one or more recyclable or reusable bags at no cost.

Encouraged: Reusable Carryout Bags

- A reusable bag is a bag made of cloth or other machine washable fabric that has handles, or a durable plastic bag with handles that is at least 2.25 millimeters thick, and is specifically designed and manufactured for multiple reuse.

