



CITY OF LOS ANGELES



SANITATION
DEPARTMENT OF
PUBLIC WORKS

City of Los Angeles Reusable Bag Program

Single-Use Carryout Bag Ordinance

Bureau of Sanitation
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What is the Issue?

- Each year billions of single-use plastic bags are distributed by stores in the City of Los Angeles
- Discarded single-use plastic bags end up in the litter stream and negatively impact communities and the environment
- The City spends millions of dollars each year on prevention, cleanup and other activities to reduce litter





Ordinance Objectives

- Reduce the billions of single-use plastic carryout bags currently distributed in the City of Los Angeles each year
- Reduce adverse environmental impacts associated with single-use plastic carryout bags
- Deter the use of single-use paper carryout bags by retail customers in the City
- **Promote the use of reusable carryout bags**
- Reduce plastic bag litter and its adverse impacts

Single-Use Bag Ordinance

- ❖ On June 25, 2013, the Los Angeles Mayor and City Council approved an ordinance to:
 - Ban the distribution of plastic single-use carryout bags by a set category of retail establishments
 - Regulate the distribution of single-use carryout paper bags by those same retailers
 - Promote the use of reusable bags in the City

Ordinance Key Provisions

- Single-use plastic bags banned
- Charge a \$0.10 store fee on single-use carryout paper bags
- Provide reusable bags for sale or free
- Customers on supplemental food programs receive free paper bags
- Reusable bags must meet durability and safety standards
- Stores must report back to the City

Summary of the Ordinance

- Ban single-use plastic carryout bags
- Mandate a \$0.10 charge on single-use paper carryout bags
- Require stores to make available reusable bags for purchase
- Ordinance would take effect on January 1, 2014 for Large Stores, and July 1, 2014 for Small Stores

Ordinance would exempt:

- Restaurants, dry cleaning shops, and hardware stores such as Home Depot, Lowes
- Pharmacy bags, Produce bags used for bagging vegetables, fruits, meats, etc.
- Participants of California Special Supplemental Food Program for Women, Infants, and Children or Supplemental Food Program will receive free reusable bags or recyclable paper bags to carryout the purchases

For complete Ordinance, Visit: http://clkrep.lacity.org/onlinedocs/2011/11-1531_ord_182604.pdf

Reusable Bag

A bag with handles that is specifically designed and manufactured for multiple reuse and meets all of the following requirements:

- has capability of carrying a minimum of 22 pounds, 125 times, over a distance of at least 175 feet;
- has a minimum volume of 15 liters;
- is machine washable or is made of a material that can be cleaned or disinfected;
- does not contain lead, cadmium, or any other heavy metal in toxic amounts, as defined by applicable state and federal standards and regulations for packaging or reusable bags;
- has printed on the bag, or on a tag that is permanently affixed to the bag, the name of the manufacturer, the country where the bag was manufactured, a statement that the bag does not contain lead, cadmium, or any other heavy metal in toxic amounts, and the percentage of postconsumer recycled material used; and,
- if made of plastic, the reusable bag must be a minimum of 2.25 mils thick

For Details, visit: http://www.green Seal.org/Portals/0/Documents/Standards/GS-16/GS-16Ed2-1_Reusable_Bags.pdf

Produce or Product bag

A produce or product bag means any bag made from paper or plastic, without handles provided to a customer to:

- Carry produce, meats, or other food items to the point of sale inside a store;
- Hold prescription medication dispensed from a pharmacy;
- Protect food or merchandise from being damaged or contaminated by other food or merchandise when items are placed together in a reusable bag or recyclable paper carryout bag; or
- Be placed over articles of clothing on a hanger.

Who will be regulated?

- Grocery Stores (Vons, Ralphs, Albertsons)
- Large stores with a pharmacy (CVS, RiteAid)
- Large Retail Stores that sell groceries (Target, Walmart)
- Convenience stores that sell milk, bread, soda, and snack foods (7-11, mini-marts)
- Not regulated: Restaurants, and retail stores that do not sell a line of perishable groceries (Home Depot, Lowe's, Macy's, Sears)

Ordinance Effective Dates

- **January 1, 2014** for large stores: single-use plastic bags banned and paper bags are \$0.10 each (10,000 square feet or more with grocery items)
- **July 1, 2014** for all other regulated stores: single-use plastic bags banned and paper bags are \$0.10 each

Public Education Plan

- Two-year campaign to notify all residents and stakeholders about the new ordinance, how impacted stores are defined, which stores are exempt, and what the timelines are using a comprehensive email database
- November 2013 press conference with city elected officials to publicize January 1, 2014 effective date

Outreach at Grocery Stores

- Meet with Big-3 grocery stores for permission to staff information tables at Big-3 supermarkets (30 stores) and independent grocery stores (60 stores) in 15 City Council District areas for a total of 90 locations across the City. The targeted stores will include:
 - Albertsons & Fresh and Easy markets (10)
 - Ralphs & Food 4 Less markets (10)
 - Vons & Safeway markets (10)
 - Independent grocery stores
 - Spanish markets (20)
 - Armenian markets (5)
 - Chinese markets (5)
 - Ethiopian markets (5)
 - Filipino markets (5)
 - Japanese markets (5)
 - Korean markets (5)
 - Persian markets (5)
 - Thai markets (5)

EDUCATIONAL MATERIALS

- **Reusable bags (500,000 free bags to be distributed citywide)**
- Speaking points for Sanitation outreach staff, 311 Citywide Service Directory and Sanitation Call Center
- One page fact sheet in multiple languages
- Notification email letter to stakeholders citywide
- Press release on proposed reusable bag policy (Los Angeles Times and Los Angeles Daily News)
- Ordinance description for City, Mayor, City Council and Sanitation websites
- Powerpoint presentation for neighborhood council and community meetings
- **Educational poster for store displays in multiple languages**
- **Educational flyer for store displays in multiple languages**

FAQ: SINGLE-USE CARRYOUT BAG ORDINANCE

What does the Ordinance do?

It bans plastic carryout bags, requires a \$0.10 fee on each paper carryout bag, and encourages the use of reusable bags.

When does the ban on plastic carryout bags take effect?

On **January 1, 2014** for large stores and on **July 1, 2014** small stores

Large stores with gross annual sales of over \$2 million selling dry groceries, canned goods, or nonfood items and perishable items or stores of at least 10,000 square feet of retail space generating sales or use tax and has a licensed pharmacy are included in the ban (*e.g. Ralphs, Target, Walmart, Vons, Food 4 Less, 99cent Only Stores, Walgreens, CVS, Rite Aid, and others*).

Small stores such as drug stores, pharmacies, supermarkets, grocery stores, convenience food stores, food-marts, and other entities engaged in the retail sales of a limited line of goods that sell milk, bread, soda, and snack foods, in addition to stores with a Type 20 or 21 license issued by the Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control are included in the ban (*e.g. 7-Eleven, AM PM Mini Markets, and others*).

Any exemptions?

Participants of California Special Supplemental Food Program for Women, Infants, and Children or Supplemental Food Program will receive either a recyclable paper bag or a reusable bag at no cost.

Produce bags used for bagging vegetables, fruits and meats, and pharmacy bags;

Restaurant bags;

Hardware stores bags (*e.g. Home Depot, Lowes and others*); and

Retail Store Bags (as long as there is no grocery component to said store *e.g. Macy's, JC Penny, Ross, TJ Maxx, and others*).

What would I use to pick-up my pet waste?

Consumers may consider using used bread or chip bags, sandwich bags, liners for cereal boxes, and other types of bags as an alternative for wet waste and pet droppings.

Where can I get reusable bags?

Reusable bags are widely available for purchase at select retail stores and markets. Reusable bags are also being distributed through select City-sponsored events and locations on a first come, first served basis and provided at no cost while supplies last.