



Philadelphia's Plastic Bag Ban

Philadelphia Office of Sustainability
April 14, 2021

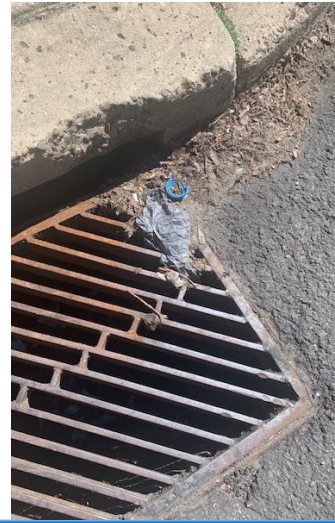


City of
Philadelphia

Why Ban Plastic Bags?

To reduce litter.

Philadelphians use about one billion plastic bags each year. When not discarded properly, these bags litter our streets, waterways, trees, and commercial corridors.



Why Ban Plastic Bags?

To save money and keep staff safe.

- The City of Philadelphia spends **\$48 million annually** to clean up litter.
- Plastic bags are not recyclable curbside but are often placed in recycling bins. At the recycling facility, the bags get caught in the equipment, which is dangerous for recycling center staff and costs the City money.
- Each year, plastic bags account for over **150 hours of lost staff time** at our recycling facility, at a cost of **\$300,000**.





Source: Waste Management/Philadelphia Tribune

Why Ban Plastic Bags?

Litter is bad for business.

- Plastic bags are a heavily littered item on our streets and often end up in our trees and out front of businesses, making them look littered and unattractive to shoppers.
- Philadelphia businesses spend an estimated **\$20 million a year** on plastic bags. (Clean Air Council)



Reusable Bags Are the Best Choice




No bag option is without impact, so reducing waste means cutting down on the use of paper bags as well. We urge all retailers to encourage their customers to shop with reusable bags and to start using up existing plastic bag stock.



Important Dates

July 1, 2021	Implementation begins.
July 31, 2021	Retail establishments are required to post signage at all points of sale informing customers that single-use plastic bags and non-compliant paper bags will no longer be provided by the establishment as of the date the prohibition begins.
October 1, 2021	Prohibition of single-use plastic bags and noncompliant paper bags begins.
October 1, 2021 – April 1, 2022	6-month education and warning period ; the City will only issue warnings for failure to use compliant bags.
April 1, 2022	The City will fully enforce the ban.



What Types of Bags Are Banned?



The legislation prohibits retail establishments from providing for carryout or delivery:

- **All single-use plastic bags.** This includes bags created through a “blown film extrusion” process or that are less than 2.25 mils thick.
- **Bags of the same specifications made from PLA (polylactic acid) or other bioplastics**
- **Paper bags that do not meet the criteria set in the legislation**



What Types of Bags Can Businesses Provide?

1) Reusable bags:



- Made of nylon, cotton, cloth, polyester, or another material that is specifically designed and manufactured for multiple reuses.
- Made of plastic, are not created through blown film extrusion, are more than 2.25 mils thick, and are specifically designed and manufactured for multiple reuses.

2) Paper bags that meet specific requirements



Requirements for Compliant Paper Bags


Paper bags are permitted if they:

- Contain at least 40 percent post-consumer recycled content.
- Contain no old growth fiber.
- Display the word “recyclable” or “recycled content” in a highly visible manner and are labeled with the name of the manufacturer and the percentage of post-consumer recycled content of the bag in an easy-to-read font size.





What Types of Businesses are Affected?

- **Businesses of all sizes.** The ban will affect all retail establishments in Philadelphia that make bags available for carry-out items (such as food, clothing, home goods, etc.) and/or for delivery.
 - These businesses include establishments, indoor or outdoor, where food or other products are offered to the public for sale, including:
 - ✓ Supermarkets
 - ✓ Convenience stores
 - ✓ Shops
 - ✓ Service stations
 - ✓ Department stores
 - ✓ Clothing stores
 - ✓ Restaurants
 - ✓ Food trucks
 - ✓ Farmers markets
 - ✓ Delivery services
- 

Exemptions

- Dry cleaner bags
- Packaged garbage bags, pet waste bags, and yard waste bags
- Bags used inside a retail establishment by a customer to deliver perishable items to the point of sale (including bags used to package bulk items, meats or fish, unwrapped prepared foods, bakery goods, flowers, potted plants, or similar items).





Other Important Details

- Businesses can decide whether to provide compliant bags for free or for a cost, at the merchant's discretion.
- Businesses must use all existing single-use plastic bag and non-compliant paper bag stock by October 1, 2021.



Resources: Printable Signs

 **OFFICIAL NOTICE**

Philadelphia's Plastic Bag Ban

Beginning October 1, 2021

Beginning October 1, 2021, Philadelphia retail establishments are prohibited by City law from providing single-use plastic bags and paper bags that do not meet specific requirements to customers for carryout or delivery.

 **SINGLE-USE PLASTIC BAGS**

 **REUSABLE BAGS**

 **PAPER BAGS MADE FROM AT LEAST 40% POST-CONSUMER RECYCLED CONTENT**

Learn more at phila.gov/plastic-bag-ban

 **Report a Non-Compliant Business**
Contact Philly311 to report a business that is not in compliance by calling 3-1-1 or visiting phila.gov/311.



 **AVISO OFICIAL**

Prohibición de bolsas de plástico de Filadelfia

A partir del 1 de octubre de 2021

A partir del 1 de octubre de 2021, la ley local prohíbe a los establecimientos de tiendas minoristas de Filadelfia dar bolsas de plástico de un solo uso y bolsas de papel que no cumplan con los requisitos específicos a los clientes para llevar o entregar las compras.

 **BOLSAS DE PLÁSTICO DE UN SOLO USO**

 **BOLSAS REUTILIZABLES**

 **BOLSAS DE PAPEL FABRICADAS CON AL MENOS 40% DE CONTENIDO RECICLADO POSTCONSUMO**

Obtenga más información en phila.gov/plastic-bag-ban

 **Denuncie los negocios que no cumplen con los requisitos**
Contacte Philly311 para denunciar a un negocio que no cumple con los requisitos llamando al 3-1-1 o visitando phila.gov/311.



 **THÔNG BÁO CHÍNH THỨC**

Lệnh cấm Túi Nhựa của Philadelphia

Bắt đầu từ ngày 1 tháng 10 năm 2021

Bắt đầu từ ngày 1 tháng 10 năm 2021, luật Thành phố cấm các cơ sở bán lẻ ở Philadelphia cung cấp túi nhựa dùng một lần và túi giấy không đáp ứng các yêu cầu cụ thể cho khách hàng để mang đi hoặc giao hàng.

 **TÚI NHỰA DÙNG MỘT LẦN**

 **TÚI TÁI SỬ DỤNG**

 **TÚI GIẤY ĐƯỢC LÀM TỪ ÍT NHẤT 40% THÀNH PHẦN TÁI CHẾ SAU TIÊU THỤ**

Tìm hiểu thêm tại phila.gov/plastic-bag-ban

 **Báo cáo Doanh nghiệp Không tuân thủ lệnh cấm**
Liên hệ với Philly311 để báo cáo doanh nghiệp không tuân thủ lệnh cấm bằng cách gọi 3-1-1 hoặc truy cập phila.gov/311.



Available in 6 Languages: English, Spanish, French, Vietnamese, Simplified Chinese, and Russian

Other Resources

- Printable FAQ flyer (available in multiple languages)
- Plastic Bag Ban Webpage: phila.gov/plastic-bag-ban
- **Coming soon: Compliant Bag Vendors List**



Outreach to Residents

- #BYOBagPHL digital media campaign
- Ads on LinkPHL kiosks and digital bus shelters
- Online events and other outreach
- Encouraging consumers to bring reusable bags to stores instead and to clean/disinfect those bags between uses





Thank You

Contact Us:
sustainability@phila.gov
phila.gov/plastic-bag-ban



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