



City of Pittsburgh Plastic Bag Ordinance

Compliance Guide

1. Single-use plastic carryout bags are not permitted.

- All establishments must comply.
- The ordinance applies to bags used in-store, at pick-up, and for takeout or delivery.
- The ordinance also applies to biodegradable, plant-based, and compostable plastic bags.

2. At least 10 cents must be charged for each compliant paper bag provided to customers at all points-of-sale.

- Paper bags must contain at least 40% post-consumer recycled content and cannot contain old growth fiber.
- Free paper bags can be given to SNAP/WIC/EBT users.
- Bag fees must have their own line item on receipts.
- Establishments retain all bag fees.

3. The ordinance does not apply to plastic or paper bags used for the following purposes:

- Bringing loose and bulk goods to the checkout, such as:
 - Unwrapped prepared foods, bakery goods.
 - Fruits, vegetables, grains, nuts, candies.
 - Uncooked meats or fish.
- Holding any dry-cleaning, medication, flowers, or plants.

4. The City of Pittsburgh will be inspecting for compliance.

- Inspections will be random or in response to 311 complaints.
- Upon discovery of a violation, the following will happen:
 - The inspector will outline the violation and give a warning.
 - After 4 - 6 weeks, the inspector will return to check compliance.
 - Citations will be issued if compliance is not met by the 3rd visit.
 - Fines will accumulate daily until compliance is achieved.



City of Pittsburgh Plastic Bag Ordinance

Compliance Checklist

<input type="checkbox"/>	Download and review the compliance guide, supplier guide, FAQ, and other resources posted on our website to help you enter compliance.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Stop distributing single-use plastic carryout bags. You may offer compliant paper bags or reusable bags instead. You are NOT allowed to continue using any remaining inventory of plastic bags.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Update points-of-sale (in-store, online, mobile, phone, third-party delivery apps) to charge a minimum of 10¢ for each paper bag provided.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Ensure paper bags contain a minimum of 40% post-consumer recycled content and are not made from old growth forest.
<input type="checkbox"/>	List the paper bag fee as a separate line item on every receipt using “carry-out bag charge” or wording that shows the fee is for bags.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Remind employees to ask customers if they want a bag before providing one and that they may waive the paper bag fee for WIC/SNAP/EBT users.
<input type="checkbox"/>	At sale, charge customers at least 10¢ per paper carryout bag provided.
<input type="checkbox"/>	OPTIONAL: Download signage from our website to post inside of your establishment providing information on the bag ban.

**Visit the
Website:**

[pittsburghpa.gov/
dpw/plastic-bag-ban](http://pittsburghpa.gov/dpw/plastic-bag-ban)



**Read the
FAQ:**

[pittsburghpa.gov/files/assets/city/v
/1/dpw/documents/anti-
litter/plastic-bag-ordinance-faq.pdf](http://pittsburghpa.gov/files/assets/city/v/1/dpw/documents/anti-litter/plastic-bag-ordinance-faq.pdf)

