

# **City of Silverton Ordinance No. 18-26**

## **Plastic Bag Regulation Frequently Asked Questions**

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### **Why did the City of Silverton enact the plastic bag ordinance?**

It is the City's desire to promote the use of reusable bags over plastic carryout bags in order to reduce the negative economic and environmental impacts associated with plastic carryout bags. Plastic carryout bags contribute to litter in the environment and can result in blocked storm drains, marine debris, and other waste issues.

### **What businesses does this apply to?**

The ordinance applies to all stores, sales outlets and vendors located within the Silverton city limits that sell goods at retail.

### **Does the ordinance apply to farmers' markets, street fairs, festivals and other events?**

Yes.

### **What plastic bags are prohibited?**

A plastic carryout bag is defined as a plastic bag made from synthetic or natural organic materials less than 2.25 mils thick that is provided by a retail establishment to a customer at the point of sale for use to transport or carry away purchases from the retail establishment.

### **What is a mil?**

A 'mil' is a plastic industry term for a thousandth of an inch.

### **What types of plastic bags are allowed?**

The following types of plastic bags are allowed:

- Bags used to package bulk items such as fruit, vegetables, nuts, grains, candy, greeting cards, or small hardware items, such as nails and bolts;
- Bags that contain or wrap frozen foods, meat and fish (whether prepackaged or not);
- Bags that contain or wrap flowers, potted plants, or other items where dampness may be a problem;
- Bags used to contain unwrapped prepared foods or bakery goods;
- Bags used to contain prescription drugs;
- Bags used to safeguard public health and safety during the transportation of prepared take-out foods and prepared liquids intended for consumption away from the retail establishment;
- Newspaper bags, door-hanger bags, laundry-dry cleaning bags; and
- Bags sold in packages containing multiple bags intended for use as garbage, pet waste, or yard waste bags.

### **When are retailers required to stop providing plastic carryout bags?**

On or before July 1, 2019.

### **Are retailers required to provide reusable bags or a recyclable paper bags at checkout?**

No. Retailers may choose to provide either, both or neither. All paper bags provided at the point of sale must be made of 40 percent recycled content and be 100 percent recyclable, and must be capable of composting consistent with the timeline and specifications of the ASTM Standard. In addition all retail establishments must charge a minimum of five cents for each paper bag provided at the point of sale.

### **Are any customers exempt from the five cent charge on paper bags?**

Yes. Retail establishments may provide a reusable bag or recyclable paper bag at no cost at the point of sale upon the request of a customer who uses WIC, EBT, and/or SNAP.

### **Who can I contact if I have a question or an issue about this ordinance?**

Christy Wurster, City Manager at [cwurster@silverton.or.us](mailto:cwurster@silverton.or.us).

# City of Silverton – Plastic Bag Regulation Quick Reference Guide

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**Beginning July 1, 2019 all retailers will not be permitted to distribute plastic bags at the point of sale. Paper bags will be a minimum charge of 5¢ each**



1) Lightweight plastic carryout bags are no longer allowed.



2) Stores must charge at least 5¢ for each paper carryout bag.



3) Remember to bring your reusable shopping bags when you shop.

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## Plastic bags are still allowed for:

- Produce/Meat
- Bulk Foods
- Newspaper
- Dry Cleaning
- Door Hangers
- Flowers/Potted Plants
- Unwrapped Prepared Foods
- Prescription Drugs