



City of Los Altos

Reusable Bag Ordinance

Information for Residents



**NO MORE
PLASTIC BAGS**



**PAY FOR A
PAPER BAG**



**BRING YOUR
OWN BAG**

**More
Information:**

www.BringYourBagLosAltos.org

In March 2013, the Los Altos City Council adopted a Reusable Bag Ordinance prohibiting the distribution of single-use carryout bags and requiring a minimum charge for the distribution of reusable or recyclable bags. The intent of the new ordinance is to reduce the consumption of natural resources, decrease the number of bags going to landfills, reduce litter in our local waterways and promote a shift towards reusable bags.

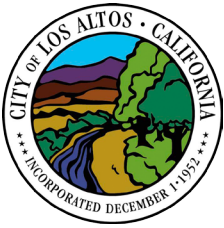
Los Altos is part of a regional effort spanning Santa Clara and San Mateo Counties to adopt identical or similar ordinances to ensure uniform, consistent regulation in a broad geographical area. This will lessen confusion for consumers and set a standard for retailers in different communities.

Ordinance Provisions

The ordinance applies to any retail establishment selling perishable or non-perishable food, goods, clothing, or personal items directly to the consumer. Retailers that are exempt from the ordinance include restaurants, non-profit thrift stores, and establishments providing a service (e.g., dry cleaners and newspaper home delivery).

- Stores may not distribute single-use carryout bags beginning **July 4, 2013**.
- Stores may provide recycled paper or reusable bags (including durable plastic bags) for a minimum charge of 10 cents each.
- Stores must itemize bag sales on customer receipts. The 10 cent charge is not subject to sales tax. Stores retain the money from bag sales.
- Stores may provide customers with protective bags (paper or plastic bags without handles) at no additional charge for use within the store to transport items to the cashier. Protective bags include bags for meat, produce, prescriptions and bulk products such as nails or screws.





City of Los Altos

Reusable Bag Ordinance

Information for Residents

(Page 2)



**NO MORE
PLASTIC BAGS**



**PAY FOR A
PAPER BAG**



**BRING YOUR
OWN BAG**

More
Information:

www.BringYourBagLosAltos.org

Ordinance Provisions (continued)

- Reusable bags sold on or after July 4, 2013 must have handles, be made of a machine-washable fabric, or be a durable plastic bag at least 2.25 mil thick.
- Paper bags must be made from a minimum 40% postconsumer recycled material.
- Stores may provide paper or reusable bags at no charge to customers paying for goods with Women, Infants, and Children (WIC), Cal-Fresh, Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), or other food stamp cards.

Customer Tips

- Remember to bring your reusable bags with you to the store (and avoid bag charges) by keeping bags in the car, near the front door and at work. For unplanned shopping trips, keep compact reusable bags in your jacket pockets, backpack or purse.
- Periodically wash or rinse reusable bags with soapy water or a solution of vinegar and water, letting bags dry out between shopping trips.
- Reuse bread bags, newspaper bags and restaurant carryout bags for pet waste or purchase pet waste bags from your local pet store or drugstore.
- Reuse restaurant carryout bags and paper bags for small trash cans or purchase a reusable liner from hardware or home stores.

For more information regarding the Reusable Bag Ordinance, visit:

www.BringYourBagLosAltos.org