



START THE HABIT

BRING YOUR BAG



MAKE THE CHANGE BY APRIL 1

An overview of City of Salem Ordinance
Bill NO. 20-18 AKA Ban the Bag!

What Factors Have Driven This?



- The purpose of the proposed ordinance is “to protect the environment, animals and human health, and reduce litter by limiting use of plastic carryout bags.”
- The motion follows a decision by China to stop receiving most recyclables from the Western world. Local garbage haulers have recently warned Salem-area residents of possible fines exceeding \$15 for failing to comply with recycling rules, which Marion County tightened in response to China's decision.
- Single use plastics are a topic of concern and action throughout the world.
- Single-use plastics may represent the epitome of today's throwaway culture. The U.N. Environment reports just nine per cent of the world's nine billion tons of plastic has been recycled. Most of our plastic ends up in landfills, our oceans and waterways, and the environment. Plastics do not biodegrade. Instead they slowly break down into smaller pieces of plastic called micro plastics.
- Larger retail chains despite additional costs are looking at total sustainability plans which include packaging and take away plastics like containers, utensils, single use plastic bags. Kroger will be removing plastic grocery bags by 2025 with the change coming to PNW stores as early as 2019 in some markets.

So what does Ordinance 20-18 do ?



- The ordinance specifically targets plastic carryout bags, which are defined by the city as "any carryout bag made predominately of plastic, either petroleum or biologically based, and made available by a retail establishment to a customer at the point of sale."
- "It includes compostable bags, biodegradable bags, and thicker plastic bags (e.g., 2.25 mils or 4.0 mils), but does not include reusable bags, recyclable paper bags, or bags exempted from the definition of carryout bag," according to the ordinance.
- Customers also could bring reusable bags, which could usually be had for a few dollars. The ordinance has defined those as bags made from "machine washable cloth, woven synthetic fiber, or woven and non-woven polypropylene with handles that are specifically designed and manufactured for long-term multiple reuses."
- For stores that sell both retail items and prepared food, plastic carryout bags can only be given at checkout for prepared food items

So what bags stay and which go ?





CARRY OUT BAGS

Provided by retail or City at a point of sale to transport or carry away purchases. Originally single use plastic, the ordinance now discussed the use not just the materials.

Exempt: bags used to segregate items that could damage or contaminate others during collection or transport. Think food and health safety!

- Package Bulk (nuts, grains, candy, nuts , bolts, keys).
- Bags used to contain meat, fish or frozen foods, even if already packaged. Think bag over packaged chicken!
- Bags for flowers, plants or any item where moisture could cause an issue.
- Prepared foods, hot deli and deli items or bakery goods.
- Pharmacy prescription bags.
- Bags sold in multiple units for home use : food storage, waste, pet waste, yard waste.



Is there a cost ?

YES! There is a 5 cent fee per bag if a customer does not provide their own.

- These bags must be paper and noted on the customer receipt.
- Retailers must provide at no cost a reusable bag or recyclable bag for all carryout purchases to customers using WIC or SNAP



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Changing consumer practices can be small steps and are uncomfortable for many. Those who actively reduce their plastic use can be supporters and champions for making the transition go smoothly !

Thank you for being a team dedicated to finding solutions

