



Reusable Bag Ordinance for Alameda County

Expansion to All Stores - 2017

Starting May 1, 2017 for all retail establishments:



Getting Your Store Ready for the New Law

Beginning **May 1, 2017**, stores can only distribute compliant reusable bags or bags made of recycled content paper. The store must charge a minimum price of 10 cents per bag, itemized on the receipt (stores keep the revenue from bag charges to offset costs of implementing the law).

1. **Start using up your existing supply** of single-use bags before the law takes effect May 1, 2017.
2. **Order compliant bags** and have them in place by May 1, 2017. Visit www.ReusableBagsAC.org for bag specifications and sources for compliant bags.
3. **Keep an eye out for a mailing** to arrive in March 2017 that will include outreach materials to inform customers of the new law.





Reusable Bag Ordinance for Alameda County Expansion to All Stores - 2017

Since 2013, grocery, drug and liquor stores in Alameda County have not been allowed to provide single-use plastic carryout bags at checkout. Building on the success of reducing bags at point of sale with the original law, the Alameda County Waste Management Authority expanded the law to include all types of retail stores and restaurants.

**New requirements for retail stores
will go into effect May 1, 2017.**



The reusable bag law is designed to reduce waste and litter, and keep plastic bags out of local waterways.

- The law only applies to carryout bags, not to bags without handles that are used to protect merchandise, produce or meat.
- The store keeps the bag charge to offset the cost of implementing the law. The charge is not subject to tax per the California State Board of Equalization.
- Drug, liquor and grocery stores have been under this requirement since January 2013 and will continue to be part of the expanded law. Requirements from the recently passed Proposition 67 (CA statewide bag law) will not affect Alameda County stores.
- Stores that fail to comply with any elements of the law are subject to fines ranging from \$100 to \$1,000 depending on the nature and severity of the violation.
- Restaurants will be part of the law beginning November 1, 2017.
- If your store does not distribute bags for purchases, no changes are needed.

Visit www.ReusableBagsAC.org for more information, including resources for compliant bags.



Ordinance 2016-02 • www.ReusableBagsAC.org • 510-891-6575