



# ALAMEDA COUNTY WASTE MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY

1537 Webster Street | Oakland, CA 94612-3355 | 510-891-6575 ♻️



Owner or Manager  
[STORE NAME]  
[ADDRESS]  
[CITY], CA [ZIP]

March 31, 2017

## Reusable Bag Law Begins May 1

Your store has been identified by your city's business license database as a retail entity that will be affected by the reusable bag ordinance for Alameda County. Please use the enclosed postcards to inform your customers of the new law by placing them at the cash register. To order more postcards, and/or versions in Chinese or Spanish, visit [www.ReusableBagsAC.org](http://www.ReusableBagsAC.org).

### Retail Store Requirements Starting May 1, 2017:

- ▶ Your store can no longer provide customers with single-use plastic carryout bags.
- ▶ Bags made of recycled paper and reusable carryout bags (which can include thicker, more durable plastic bags) may be distributed if they are sold for at least 10 cents each and meet the specifications identified in the ordinance. Refer to [www.ReusableBagsAC.org](http://www.ReusableBagsAC.org) for more information.
- ▶ The store keeps the charge to offset the cost of paper and reusable bags. The charge is not subject to tax per the California State Board of Equalization.
- ▶ The ordinance applies only to carryout bags, not bags without handles that are used to protect merchandise, produce or meat.
- ▶ Stores that fail to comply with any elements of the ordinance are subject to fines ranging from \$100 to \$1,000 depending on the nature and severity of the violation.

Drug, liquor and grocery stores have been under these requirements since January, 2013 and will continue to be part of the ordinance. If your business does not distribute bags at point of sale, you do not need to make any changes.

*Eating establishments have different requirements beginning November 1, 2017 and will receive a separate mailing with instructions on how to comply.*

For any other questions, e-mail [Bags@StopWaste.org](mailto:Bags@StopWaste.org) or call 510-891-6575.

Sincerely,

Meri Soll  
Senior Program Manager

Enclosures:     Cash Register Postcards