



Reusable Bag Law for Alameda County

Expansion to Eating Establishments - 2017

On **November 1, 2017**, the Reusable Bag Law for Alameda County is expanding to include **all eating establishments**. The requirements of the new law are as follows:



1. **No more single-use plastic bags.**

Beginning November 1, 2017, eating establishments in Alameda County can no longer distribute single-use plastic bags.



2. **Charge 10 cents for reusable bags.**

Compliant reusable bags (including thick, reusable plastic bags) may be distributed if at least ten cents is charged and itemized on the receipt. The eating establishment keeps the 10 cent charge, which is not subject to sales tax.



3. **No charge for paper bags.**

Recycled content paper bags may be distributed for free. If your eating establishment only distributes compliant paper bags, no additional action is necessary.



4. **Protective plastic bags without handles are allowed.**

The law only applies to carryout bags, not to paper or plastic bags without handles that are used to protect food (such as around containers of soup or stew to prevent spilling).

Who is Affected?

The November 1 expansion of this ordinance applies to all establishments selling prepared food and beverages to the public. This includes, but is not limited to:

- Restaurants
- Coffee Shops
- To-Go Vendors
- Cafes
- Bars
- Delis
- Food Trucks
- Bakeries
- Cafeterias

Visit www.ReusableBagsAC.org for more information, and sources for compliant bags.



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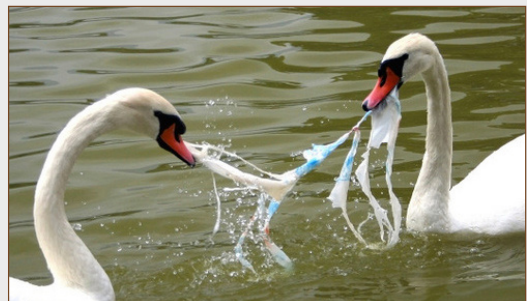
Getting Ready for the New Law

1. Start using up your existing supply of single-use bags before the ordinance takes effect on November 1, 2017.
2. Order compliant bags to have them in place by November 1. Visit www.ReusableBagsAC.org for bag specifications and sources for compliant bags.
3. Outreach materials will be mailed in September to help you inform customers of the new law.
4. Eating establishments 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.
5. If your eating establishment does not distribute bags, or you are only distributing compliant paper bags, no changes are needed.

About the Reusable Bag Law

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, restaurants, cafes and food trucks.

The rules for eating establishments differ slightly from those for general retail stores, in that eating establishments can provide recycled content paper bags free of charge. All stores can provide paper and plastic bags without handles used to protect individual items being sold.



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



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

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