



One Less Bag: Issaquah's Rules



One Less Bag: FAQ

When do the rules go into effect?

The rules went into effect July 1, 2014.

Why do these rules exist?

Using durable, reusable bags on a regular basis has the greatest environmental benefit.

What do these rules mean?

Disposable plastic bags are no longer allowed for use at retail check-out. Paper bags are allowed, but retailers are required to charge customers a minimum 5 cent charge per bag for larger bags. Retailers may charge a higher amount.

Smaller paper bags may be provided for free.

Who is affected?

All retail establishments, grocery stores, hardware stores, clothing stores, Any retail business that provides retail carryout bags are required to follow this law.

Are there exemptions?

Food banks and services for low-income households are exempt. Businesses may also apply for temporary waivers to address unusual circumstances.

Bags used within stores, such as bags for produce, bulk foods, meat and seafood, flowers and other similar uses where health, safety and moisture may be a concern, are exempt. In addition, bags for newspapers, dry cleaning and plastic bags sold in packages (for garbage or pet waste, for example) are also exempt.

Plastic bags for take-out orders from restaurants are allowed, although the use of recyclable paper bags are encouraged.

What paper bags are allowed?

The minimum 5 cent charge applies to larger paper bags (1/8 barrel bags, 882 cubic inches or larger). Smaller paper bags are not affected.



Paper bags must be made with a minimum of 40% post consumer recycled material and labeled accordingly. All charges for paper bags must be itemized on customer receipts.

Customers using vouchers or electronic benefits from state or federal food assistance programs are exempt from the 5 cent charge.

Where can I learn more?

Go to issaquahwa.gov/bags or call 425-837-3420.

