



# City of Burien PLASTIC BAG BAN



Information for  
Business Owners  
and Employees



What the  
**City of Burien Law**  
Requires

On January 7, 2019, the Burien City Council unanimously passed Ordinance 690 to ban carryout plastic bags in retail establishments.

The ordinance and ban take effect on **October 1, 2021**.

Retail establishments include **but are not limited to any**

- Grocery store
- Department store
- Hardware store
- Pharmacy
- Liquor store
- Restaurant
- Catering truck
- Home delivery
- Convenience store
- Any other retail store or vendor, including vendors at farmers markets, street fairs, and festivals.





## Burien Stores:

- May not provide customers with single-use plastic carryout (shopping) bags.
- May provide customers with:
  - Compostable bags
  - Reusable bags
  - Recyclable paper bags

\* Bags must meet certain requirements (see Bag Requirements).

## 10¢ Charge:

- Must charge a minimum of 10¢ per recyclable paper bag of any size. Stores keep the paper bag charge. The bag charge is subject to retail sales tax and retailing B&O tax.
- Customers with a voucher or electronic benefits card (EBT) for food assistance programs are exempt from paying the 10¢ charge. Qualifying programs include, but are not limited to:
  - Women, Infants and Children (WIC)
  - Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF)
  - Federal Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)
  - Washington State Food Assistance Program (FAP)

## Choose Reusable Bags

- Single-use plastic bags often end up blocking storm drains, littering our streets, polluting our waterways, clogging machines at recycling facilities, contaminating compost, and creating more trash.
- Stores may provide a discount to customers who use reusable bags.

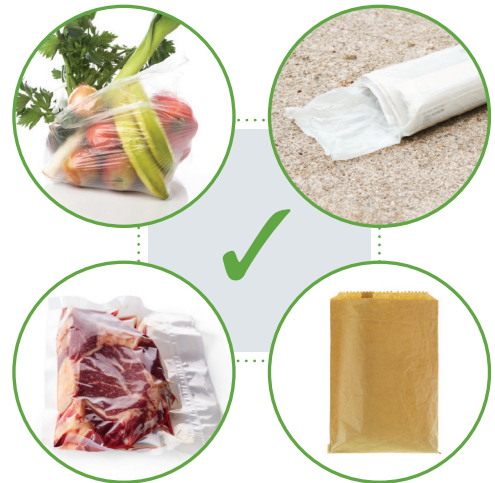
## Plastic Bags Still Allowed:

Bags used by consumers inside stores to package, wrap, or contain:

- Bulk items, such as fruit, vegetables, nuts, or grains
- Frozen foods, meat, or fish regardless of whether they are prepackaged
- Flowers, potted plants or other items where dampness may be a problem
- Unwrapped prepared foods or bakery goods
- Prescription drugs

Other allowed bags include:

- A bag used to protect a purchased item from damaging or contaminating other purchased items when placed in a recycled content paper bag or reusable bag.
- Newspaper bags, door-hanger bags, laundry-dry cleaning bags, or bags sold in packages containing multiple bags for uses such as food storage, garbage, pet waste, or yard waste.



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FOR INTERPRETATION SERVICES:  
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