

The City of West Hollywood
is in the process of preparing an ordinance to

ban single-use plastic bags

from all pharmacy, grocery, and retail stores.

This ordinance is based on the ban in effect in Los Angeles County.
It will be consistent with bans in neighboring cities including
Santa Monica, Pasadena, and Long Beach.

PURPOSE

Encourage sustainability

by substituting plastic bags with durable and long-lasting reusable bags, and paper bags made from recycled materials.

Reduce costs

to businesses, consumers, taxpayers, and the environment.

Eliminate waste,

litter and marine debris, and
create local green jobs.

FACTS AND FIGURES

\$300 million

The annual cost to government agencies in California to pick up and dispose of litter

19 billion

The number of single-use plastic bags used in California each year

5

The percentage of single-use plastic bags that are recycled

12

The average number of minutes single-use plastic bags are used for

500

The number of single-use bags the average American could avoid using each year by switching to reusable bags

- Plastic bags are produced from non-renewable resources. Fewer bags help conserve our limited resources

- The costs of “free” single-use bags are passed on to consumers at checkout, and to taxpayers who pay for litter clean-up



KEY COMPONENTS OF THE BAN

WHO IS IMPACTED?

- Phased Implementation:
 - Supermarkets and large retail establishments over 10,000 square feet will no longer be able to supply plastic bags within six months of the effective date of the ordinance
 - Small stores and pharmacies under 10,000 square feet will have up to 12 months to comply from the effective date of the ordinance.
- 10-cent fee for paper bags to be retained by each retailer to help cover the costs of stocking paper bags and any related outreach or promotional efforts
- Paper bags will be required to contain 40% post-consumer recycled content.

WHO IS EXEMPTED?

- Customers who qualify for subsidized groceries will be exempt from the paper bag fee.
- Light-weight plastic bags without handles for transporting produce and raw meat products to the point of sale
- Restaurants and other food service providers who provide plastic bags to customers for prepared take-out food intended for off-premises consumption
- Farmers markets

The City of West Hollywood is eager to work with businesses to facilitate the transition to greater sustainability.

For more information regarding the Plastic Bag Ban, please visit www.weho.org/plasticbagban