

## Website Links:

- NJ Business Action Center - business roundtables & alternatives (vendor list)  
<https://business.nj.gov/bags/plastic-ban-law>
- NJDEP Plastics FAQ/Website <https://www.nj.gov/dep/plastic-ban-law>
- NJ Clean Communities - flyers, sample press releases, window clings  
<https://www.bagupnj.com>
- NJ Dept of Health - Straws Only  
<https://www.nj.gov/health/ceohs/phfpp/retailfood/singleuseplasticstraws.shtml>
- ANJEC's NJ No Plastics – FAQs, flyers, sample township newsletter  
<https://njnoplastics.org>

## General info:

*Beginning May 4, 2022, the law prohibits all Stores (including retail), Food Service Businesses, and Grocery Stores from selling to, or providing their customers with, single-use plastic carryout bags. In addition, Grocery Stores larger than 2,500 square feet may not provide or sell single-use paper carryout bags, and instead may provide or sell only reusable carryout bags.*

*For more in-depth answers, please send questions to NJDEP @ [singleuseplastics@dep.nj.gov](mailto:singleuseplastics@dep.nj.gov)*

## Questions

- Stores like Walgreens/Rite Aid/CVS/Bed Bath and Beyond included in Ban?  
*These stores any size can use paper bags.*
- Walmart/Target rules?  
*No paper, no plastic, they are considered grocery stores because they sell refrigerated goods.*
- So, if I buy non- food at Target would they use Paper bags?  
*No, because Target is already defined as a grocery store, they are banned from providing paper.*
- How about green markets, outdoor food markets?  
*Paper bags allowed, no plastic bags*
- What about dollar stores?  
*All retail stores, restaurants, etc. are banned from providing single-use plastic carryout bags.*
- Do you have any idea what supermarkets will do for "shop from home" orders that have been so popular during the pandemic?

*Grocery stores will need to create a new model for delivery. Most likely a combination of boxes, reusable totes, or reusable bags.*

- Can you confirm that the PAPER bag ban ONLY applies to stores over 2,500 square feet THAT sell food (or is it more generalized to “groceries”)? Are there many large stores that don’t fit this, and can therefore use paper still?

*Stores over 2,500 square feet that ONLY handle prepackaged food that does not require time or temperature controls for food safety are **exempt** from the ban on paper bags.*

*For example, Bed Bath & Beyond is a large store over 2500 square feet that sells dry, unrefrigerated grocery items such as nuts.*

- In your webinar last June you said paper carryout bags were banned from grocery stores over 2500 sq ft. Today you are saying paper carryout bags may be sold or provided by retail stores of any size. This is contradictory. Can you pls explain?

*The law defines grocery and retail stores differently. Grocery stores above 2500 square feet are banned from giving out paper carryout bags. Retail stores such as Macy’s are allowed to use paper bags.*

*The single-use plastic bag ban applies to a "Store," "Food Service Business," & "Grocery Store." The single-use paper bag ban applies to a "Grocery Store." As defined by the law: A "Grocery Store" is a self-service retail establishment that occupies at least 2,500 square feet and sells household foodstuffs for off-site consumption.*

*It does not include an establishment that handles only pre-packaged food that does not require time or temperature controls for food safety.*

- What if handles are made from same material, not separately attached?  
*Not sure, if you have specific example of this type of bag, please connect with NJDEP: [singleuseplastics@dep.nj.gov](mailto:singleuseplastics@dep.nj.gov)*
- Are you aware of programs, current or in development, that will let people recycle reusable bags when they tear or are otherwise destroyed?  
*Depends on the material of reusable bag. If it is made with cloth, it can be placed into a textile recycling bin.*
- What to do with the leftover supply of ban products. Is there a recycle solution available.  
*Leftover plastic bag inventory or Styrofoam takeout can be given to shelters/soup kitchens.*
- People are resistant to the bag ban will talk about the energy/water/resources that go into making reusable bags vs disposable plastic bags. Is there any research/data on this that we can share to educate?

*There is a cost associated with every type of material. Here's a great formula to consider: Total Environmental Impact = Cost of Production + Cost of Use + Cost of Disposal*

*In general, the more times you use a bag, the more environmentally friendly it becomes. Take care of your reusable bags and don't accumulate more than you need.*

<https://plastic.education/reusable-vs-disposable-bags-whats-better-for-the-environment/>

- I like the prospect of the natural, hemp/burlap bags, but I see very few of these. The language in the law refers to an outlook that these will be available. Can you speak to that - when do you expect that to be the case?  
*Hemp is an emerging industry in NJ and it will take a few years to ramp up.*  
*. \*\* ANJEC does not promote any specific vendor but these recommendations were made in the chat*  
*“Eco Promotions out of Illinois provides ours, and we pay a little more but they are available and we have bought rPET and Woven. Recent bulk order came in 4 weeks with Logo Art. We order our bags from Custom Earth Promotions in FL. They're made from 100% recycled material.”*
- Can HOAs at Senior communities get reusable bags?  
*NJ Clean Communities has a limited supply of reusable bags and they are earmarked primarily for overburden communities. Recommend connecting with local Clean Communities coordinator and using those funds or the recycle tonnage grant funds towards purchase of reusable bags.*
- What about restaurants for left overs?  
*Plastic bags cannot be used. Restaurants can still use paper bags. Similar to bringing reusable bags to stores, encourage folks to bring reusable containers for leftovers.*
- How does the law apply to a non-profit food pantry, distributing shelf-stable packaged products as well as loose, unpackaged produce. (More than 2,500 sq. ft.)  
*There's currently a discussion about potential exemption for food pantry. Please stay tuned on this issue.*
- What about places still automatically giving out plastic straws. What to do?  
*Hand out fliers explaining the new law to restaurant manager. Encourage putting up skip the straw fliers/coasters/tent cards and retraining waiters to ask customer “Do you want a straw?” Lots of restaurants are now using QR codes for online menus – simple change to website explaining the new law and why it's important*

<https://bagupnj.com/index.php/downloads>

<https://oceanconservancy.org/trash-free-seas/outreach-education/skip-the-straw/>  
Concerns reach out NJ Dept of Health - Straws Only  
<https://www.nj.gov/health/ceohs/phfpp/retailfood/singleuseplasticstraws.shtml>

- Will there be a "grace" period for enforcement? If so, for how long?  
*This is still being discussed. Please stay tuned on this issue.*
- What if the municipality has no plan in place to enforce the law?  
*Municipality then needs to coordinate with the County Environmental Health Agency – make sure residents have access that contact information.*
- Does the municipality have to create its own enforcement ordinance, including fines/penalties?  
*No, it is defined by the state law:  
A person or entity that violates the law will be warned for a first offense, may be fined up to \$1,000 per day for the second offense, and may be fined up to \$5,000 per day for the third and subsequent violations. Violations of a continuing nature constitute an additional, separate, and distinct offense for each day that is deemed a violation.  
The DEP, municipalities and any entity certified pursuant to the "County Environmental Health Act" are authorized to enforce the law.*
- How is money collected and where does the money go?  
*NJDEP currently working on enforcement guidelines for municipalities.  
Penalty fees are to be collected through civil action.  
70% of the penalties will be remitted to the State Clean Communities Fund.  
30% of the penalties will be remitted to the municipality.*
- What a municipality has to do before 5/4 to be able to enforce the law?  
*Municipalities need to determine how to handle calls coming in for non-compliance – who in township will handle? OR will it be county environmental health agency?*
- Will NJ BAC proactively be sending encouragement and support to businesses?  
*Yes, NJBAC and the NJ Food Council have connected with business members. IF you would like business roundtable session for your town, connect with NJBAC*
- Are NJBAC and NJDEP available for outreach presentations, either live or virtually?  
*NJBAC will host roundtables with local businesses and answer questions M-Fr (9-5).*
- Can NJBAC and DEP create/deliver "Help Me Succeed" posters and tent cards for businesses to request patrons get on board?  
*Good idea. We have shared with NJ Clean Communities Council.*

- Resources available in Spanish?

*NJDEP has information in Spanish/English about the ban.*

<https://www.nj.gov/dep/plastic-ban-law/>