



Utensils



Take Out



Cups



Bottles



Bags

NJ's New Plastic Pollution Reduction Law



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We didn't
always have
single-use
plastics.

Notice the
trash can?



LIFE



Throwaway Living

DISPOSABLE ITEMS CUT DOWN HOUSEHOLD CHORES

Plastic Pollution Reduction Law



The Basics

- Straws – 1 year – November 4, 2021
- Paper and Plastic Bags – 18 months – May 4, 2022
- Polystyrene Foam - 18 months - May 4, 2022 (with 2 year extension for long handled spoons, portion cups size 2 oz or less, meat/fish trays, pre-packaged foods)



Bags

- All single-use plastic carryout bags banned, with sanitary exceptions.

Paper bags are banned, BUT:

- If grocery store size ABOVE 2500 square feet - paper carryout bags banned
- If grocery store size UNDER 2500 square feet – paper carryout bags free



What kind of bags are allowed?



- Bags used solely to contain or wrap uncooked meat, fish, or poultry
- Hemp bags
- Bags used solely for loose items such as fruits, vegetables, nuts, coffee, grains, baked goods, candy, greeting cards, flowers or small hardware items
- Bags used solely to contain live animals, such as fish or insects sold in pet stores
- Bags used solely to contain food sliced or prepared to order, including soup or hot food
- Laundry, dry cleaning, and garment bags
- Bag provided by a pharmacy to carry prescription drugs
- Newspaper bags



Reusable Bags



Definition of a reusable bag?

- Made of polypropylene fabric, pet nonwoven fabric, nylon, cloth, hemp product, or other **washable** fabric; and have **stitched** handles; be designed and manufactured for multiple reuses (at least 125 uses)

Funding source for education/reusable bag giveaways?

- NJ clean communities program funds of \$500,000 will be set aside each year for the first three years to help with statewide educational effort and giveaway of reusable bags.
- Municipalities can use their municipal recycling tonnage and clean communities grant to pay for reusable bags

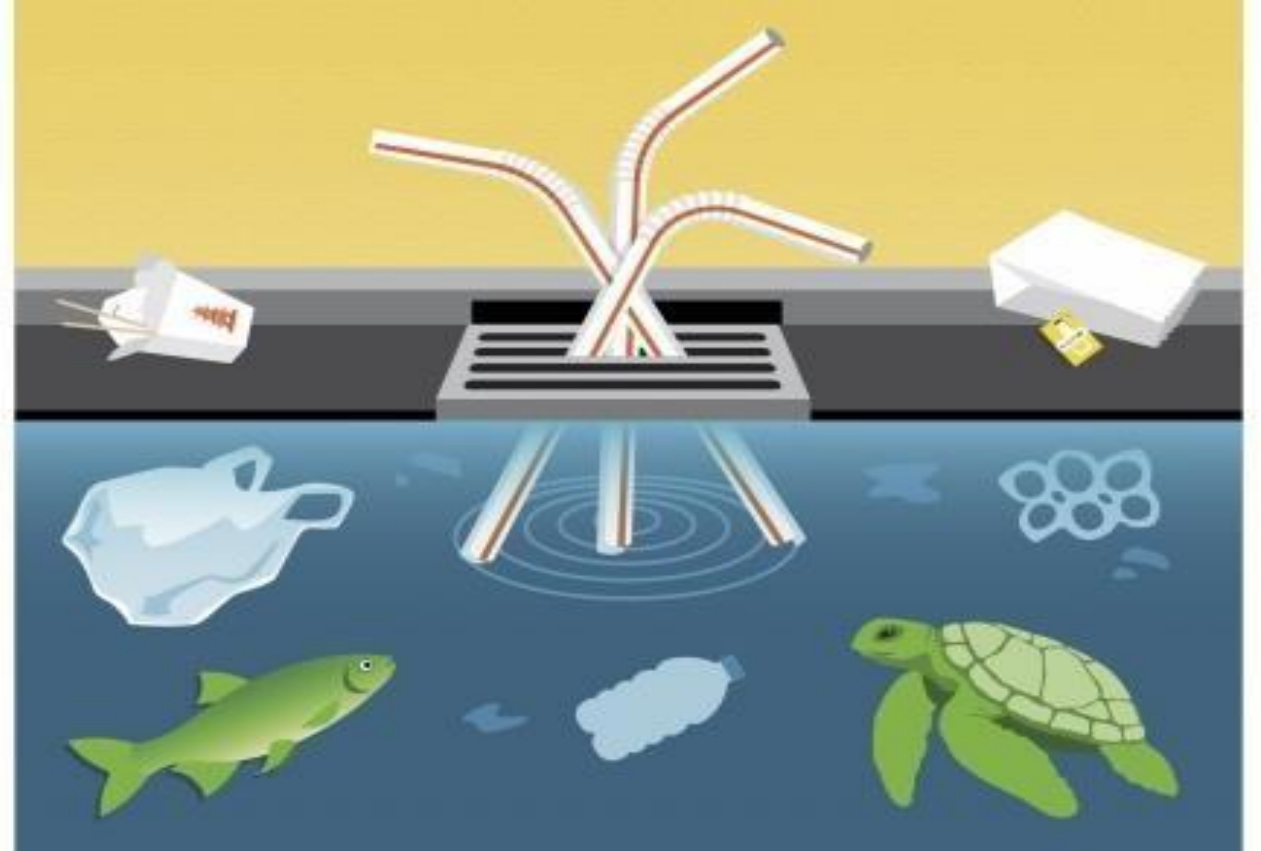
Polystyrene Foam

- All polystyrene foam food service products banned effective May 4, 2022
- Events hosted in NJ municipalities - like fairs, concerts, etc. must comply.
- Hardship waiver may be granted by the DEP.

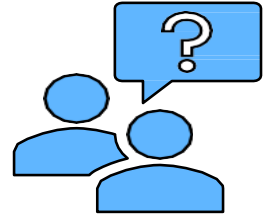


Straws

- Only available by request
- Food service businesses are required to keep an adequate supply of single-use plastic straws to satisfy customer requests
- Packages of single-use plastic straws and those pre-packaged with items like juice boxes may still be sold in stores



Frequently Asked Questions



Does the state law override local ordinances?

- Local ordinances are in effect until the implementation of the state law for each product type.

What are the penalties?

- Any business violating the bill would get a warning on first offense, a fine up to \$1,000 for a second offense and a fine of up to \$5,000 for a third or subsequent offense.
- 70% of the penalties will be remitted to the state into the Clean Communities Fund
- 30% of the penalties will be remitted to the municipality

Who is responsible for enforcement?

- Handled by NJ Department of Environmental Protection, the municipality, and any entity certified under the County Environmental Health act on bags and foam. The department of health enforces the plastic straw provision of the law.

Resources

NJ Business Action Center:

<https://business.nj.gov/bags/plastic-ban-law>

NJDEP sites:

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

<https://www.bagupnj.com>

ANJEC's webpage: <https://www.njnoplastics.org>

Foam food service waiver:

singleuseplastics@dep.nj.gov or call 609-984-4250

SINGLE-USE PLASTIC POLLUTION REDUCTION LAW



*IN GROCERY STORES
OVER 2500 SQFT



USE REUSABLES!

[NJNOPLASTICS.ORG](https://www.njnoplastics.org)



What Does My Town Need To Do?

- Educate local businesses/merchants through township newsletters, press releases, business roundtables
- Encourage residents to bring reusables to stores. Giveaway reusable bags using your CC funding.
- Figure out how to handle non-compliance – be ready to handle these calls and/or refer complaints to county environmental health agency



What Can I Do?

- Vote with your wallet
- Say YES to Reusables!
- Say NO to utensils/extras when ordering takeout
- Educate your family & friends
- Social media #bagupNJ
- Bring reusables to stores. Clean Communities funding is available for municipalities for bag giveaways.



**Starting next May,
NJ law will ban
grocery stores from
providing plastic and
paper bags to help
reduce litter.**

**Don't wait.
Start bringing
reusable bags now.**

**BRING YOUR REUSABLE
BAGS
WHEN YOU SHOP!
BagUpNJ.com**