



CITY OF WALTHAM

MASSACHUSETTS

BOARD OF HEALTH

MICHELLE M. FEELEY
DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC HEALTH

Dear Waltham Retailers:

As you may know, implementation of the City of Waltham Ordinance regarding the reduction of plastic bags will be taking **effect on June 25th, 2022.**

The ordinance, Chapter 8, Article XV, “Reduction of Plastic Bags” can be viewed at:

<https://ecode360.com/WA1697/laws/LF1501737.pdf>

The ordinance prohibits retailers from providing single-use plastic checkout bags to any customer for the purpose of enabling them to carry goods from the point of sale. If a retailer does provide checkout bags to customers, such bags must be either a recyclable paper bag, or a reusable bag.

The types of bags that a retailer may offer include:

Recyclable Paper Bag

Shall be defined as a paper bag that is 100% recyclable and contains at least 40% postconsumer recycled content, and displays in a visible manner on the outside of the bag the word “recyclable” and “made from postconsumer recycled content and percentage of content”

Reusable Check- Out Bag

A sewn bag with stitched handles that (1) can carry 25 pounds over a distance of 300 feet; (2) is either (a) made of cloth or other machine washable fabric; or (b) made of plastic other than polyethylene (HDPE, LDPE, PETE, etc.) or polyvinyl chloride that is durable, non-toxic, and is 4.0 mils in thickness or greater.

Your existing stock of single-use plastic bags should be phased out by June 24th 2022. Any stock of single-use plastic bags remaining as of June 25th 2022 must be properly disposed of at that time.

This ordinance may be enforced by agents of the Waltham Board of Health. The penalty structure for non-compliance includes written warnings and fines ranging from \$50-\$100 for subsequent offenses. More details can be found in section 8-169 of the ordinance.

Thank you for partnering with the City of Waltham in its efforts to reduce environmental impacts from disposable plastic bags. Please feel free to contact us at (781) 314-3305 if you have questions about these requirements.

Sincerely,

Ivan A. Colon
Senior Public Health Inspector

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