



Proposition 67 Ban on Single-use Plastic Bags Passed With 52.5% of the Vote

According to CalRecycle, Californians use an estimated 13 billion plastic bags annually. That's almost 400 bags per second.

Effective **immediately**, most grocery stores, convenience stores, large pharmacies, and liquor stores are prohibited from providing single-use plastic carryout bags. Stores generally would be required to charge at least 10 cents for any other carryout bag provided to customers at checkout.

Why ban single-use plastic bags?

- **Litter:** Studies have found plastic accounts for up to 90% of trash in our lakes and waterways, and single-use disposable plastic bags make up a large portion of the litter.
- **Plastic Bags are Harmful to Wildlife:** Plastic bags, which resemble jellyfish or sponges, can be mistaken for food or prey by seabirds, marine mammals, fish, and sea turtles. In fact, 86% of all known species of sea turtles have had reported problems of entanglement or ingestion of marine debris.
- **Plastic Bags Damage Recycling Equipment:** Recycling plants are predominantly designed to manage firm materials. Plastic bags are a thin and flexible material making it nearly impossible to pick out by staff ultimately allowing the bags to pass through sorting machines. As a result, it doesn't take long for machines to jam causing the entire sorting facility to shut down for a minimum of an hour to address the snag.

Why Charge \$.10 on Paper Bags?

The ten cent charge on paper bags helps remind consumers to bring their own bags and prevent waste.

Where does the \$.10 charge go?

Stores and food establishments keep the entire checkout bag charge in order to help offset the cost of compliant bags.

Are there single-use bags NOT covered by the new law?

Yes. Bags used by pharmacies for prescriptions; bags used to protect a purchased item from damage or contamination, such as bags used for fruits and vegetables; and bags used to contain unwrapped food items like bulk foods are some examples of single-use bags not covered by the new law. In addition, bags without handles that are designed to be placed over articles of clothing on a hanger are not covered under the new law.

Sources: CalRecycle, San Francisco Environment.org, Bag Laws.com, SacBee.com, sos.ca.gov (Secretary of State)