



Single-use Plastic Bag Ban

Take Your Own Bags When You Go Shopping

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS FOR SHOPPERS

The Town of Port Royal has joined the ranks of municipalities across the country encouraging residents to take their own bags with them when they go shopping. On February 14, 2018, the Town adopted a Single-Use Plastic Bag Ordinance, which is similar to Ordinances adopted by Beaufort County and other municipalities in the county. The Ordinance bans the use of certain disposable plastic carryout shopping bags. We are providing answers for questions you may have about the Ordinance.

When does the Ordinance go into effect?

November 1, 2018.

What businesses are affected by the Ordinance?

Most retail establishments are subject to the new Ordinance, including grocery stores, department stores, hardware stores, liquor stores, convenience stores, farmers markets, restaurants, gift shops, and other retail stores or vendors. There is no exemption for small retailers.

Are there any differences between the County and municipal Ordinances?

No. The Ordinances have the same restrictions on single-use carryout bags.

What kind of plastic bag is banned?

Plastic bags considered disposable and not reusable are prohibited. This includes all disposable plastic bags provided at checkout or point-of-sale.

What kind of plastic bag is not banned?

The following types of plastic bags are allowed for the following uses:

- Laundry dry cleaning bags.
- Meat, produce and bakery bags.
- Newspaper and door-hanger bags.
- Pet waste, yard waste and garbage bags.
- Bags provided by pharmacists or veterinarians to contain prescription drugs or other medical necessities, as required by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA).
- Bags for items sold in bulk, such as bulk food and bulk hardware items.
- Bags or plastic wraps for flowers, potted plants or items where dampness may be an issue.
- Bags of any type that you take to the store for your own use to carry away goods that are not placed in a bag provided by the store.

Are clothing stores (department stores, outlets) exempt from this?

No. Clothing stores must follow the same requirements as other retailers.

Where can I get reusable bags?

Business establishments are encouraged to provide customers with reusable carryout bags or recyclable paper bags. Some stores may charge a minimal fee for their bags. These types of bags are also available through numerous on-line vendors.

What is the purpose of this Ordinance?

The goal of this Ordinance is improve and protect our environment by curbing the use of plastic bags.

How are single-use plastic carryout bags harmful to the environment?

Plastic bags can escape into our waterways and the ocean, where they are harmful to animals. They break down into smaller pieces of plastic that enter the food chain of animals and eventually that of humans.

They are difficult to recycle. Only 1% of plastic bags are returned for recycling. Americans throw away 100 billion plastic bags annually.

How can I can help?

Start using reusable bags. Remember to take your own reusable bags with you when you go shopping.