

New Jersey's Plastic Pollution Reduction Law Begins May, 2022



What bags are banned?



All single-use plastic carryout bags, like those found at restaurants, grocery and retail stores are banned. Single-use paper carryout bags are banned in grocery stores over 2500 square feet.

What bags are allowed?

The ban will not apply to the following bags:

- Reusable plastic carryout bags with stitched handles that can be used and cleaned multiple times
- Newspaper bags
- Laundry/dry cleaning bags
- Bags sold in packages intended for use as garbage, pet waste, or yard waste bags
- Bags used to wrap frozen food, meat, vegetables, and bulk items
- Bags provided by pharmacy to carry prescription drugs

Why are bags a problem?



Plastic bags are typically used for less than 12 minutes before they are discarded. NJ residents use 4.4 BILLION plastic bags annually.



Plastics in our natural environment are nearly impossible to remove and cause the death of wildlife and marine animals.



Plastic litter accumulates in landfills, waterways and neighborhoods. Blockage of storm drains can lead to localized flooding.



Paper bags require a large amount of wood, water, energy and chemicals to make and recycle producing a negative environmental footprint.

What bags are best?

Reusable! Bring your own!

