

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

PLASTIC BAG BAN

MAY 4, 2022

WHY THE BAN?

- For decades, the majority of litter at annual beach cleanups has been plastic. In recent years more than 80%.
- Plastic doesn't biodegrade, it breaks into smaller pieces, entering lungs and bloodstream and our water systems.

WHAT'S BANNED?

- Almost all plastic carryout bags in all stores, regardless of thickness.
- Paper bags in supermarkets over 2,500 sqft.
- Most styrofoam food containers and cups.
- Straws aren't banned, but are upon request only.
- Black clamshell takeout containers.
- Vegetable trays.
- Styrofoam Egg cartons.

WHAT PLASTIC BAGS ARE EXEMPT?

- Meat Dept. bags to wraps fish, poultry, etc.
- Produce bags to hold fruits, veggies and other loose items (nuts, coffee, grains, baked good, candy, flowers)
- Pet store bags to hold live animals such as fish.
- Deli bags for sliced or food prepared to order.
- Pharmacy bags for prescription drugs
- Newspaper bags.
- Dry cleaning bags.

WHAT CONTAINERS ARE EXEMPT?*

- Trays for raw meat, poultry, fish.
- Prepackaged containers for ramen noodles, mac & cheese.
- Cups < 2 oz. for hot food, and foods requiring lids.
- Long spoons for shakes/smoothies

**Exempt until May 4, 2024*

FAQ'S

- Can I still use plastic or paper bags in my house? Sure. Reusing is even better than recycling.
- Can I still buy plastic and paper bags? Yes. Garbage bags, lawn debris bags, dog waste bags, sandwich bags etc. will all be for sale in supermarkets, home stores, etc. However, styrofoam will not.
- Do I have to bring a reusable bag to the grocery store? No. You can bring what ever receptacle you want - a box, plastic or paper bags, etc.
- What if I forget my bags? Most stores will have bags for sale, but it is not required. Keep bags in your trunk so they are ready for the next grocery run.
- Who is charged with enforcing? NJ DEP delegates enforcement to local health departments.

*Small businesses with <\$500k in annual revenue can apply for a one year exemption.



NEED MORE INFO?

www.nj.gov/dep/get-past-plastic
<https://bagupnj.com/>

BUSINESSES VISIT: <https://business.nj.gov>