

# BRING YOUR OWN SAC



## WHY COMPLY?

The Bring Your Own Sac ordinance is a City law and can be enforced with fines starting at \$250 for non-compliance. The ordinance is intended to reduce litter and non-compostable materials in landfills, making Sacramento a cleaner, more sustainable city.

A statewide plastic bag ban has been passed by the Legislature and is subject to referendum in 2016. By taking measures now you will already be in compliance if the statewide ban is upheld by voters.

## SAY "SO LONG" TO SINGLE-USE PLASTIC BAGS

To reduce litter and landfill, many retailers in the City of Sacramento will no longer be permitted give away free plastic bags starting January 1, 2016. Paper and reusable bags will be sold, not given away, to encourage reuse.

### HOW WILL THE BAN EFFECT YOUR BUSINESS?

If your business is a grocery store, large pharmacy, convenience store, market, or stores that have a grocery or pharmacy as one of their departments (Target, Walmart, etc.) you can no longer provide single-use plastic bags to customers. Instead, you can offer reusable bags that meet the City standards (see below) for a minimum of \$.10 each.

Customers may bring any bag they like for their use in the store. For more information on whether your business is covered under the law, please see the reverse or visit: [BringYourOwnSac.org](http://BringYourOwnSac.org).

### CHOOSE THE BEST BAG FOR YOUR BUSINESS

Three different kinds of bags may be provided under the ordinance. Businesses will need to charge a minimum of \$.10 per bag to subsidize the purchase of reusable bags.

The detailed standards for bags that are permitted by the ordinance are available on line at [BringYourOwnSac.org](http://BringYourOwnSac.org). All businesses are required to abide by these standards when selecting bags for sale.

## BE PREPARED, VISIT [BRINGYOUROWNSAC.ORG](http://BRINGYOUROWNSAC.ORG)



**Recycling &  
Solid Waste**  
CITY OF SACRAMENTO

[www.BringYourOwnSac.org](http://www.BringYourOwnSac.org)  
[sacrecycle@cityofsacramento.org](mailto:sacrecycle@cityofsacramento.org)



THANKS FOR MAKING SACRAMENTO MORE SUSTAINABLE!

## YOUR ACTION PLAN FOR THE BAN

1. **Learn how the ordinance effects your business:** Visit [BringYourOwnSac.org](http://BringYourOwnSac.org)
2. **Don't be left with extra plastic bags!** Start phasing out your use of plastic bags now so you aren't left with bags that are completely banned in January.
3. **Purchase better bags.** Paper bags and reusable bags may be sold in your store. Order a custom-designed cloth bag now to increase your business's visibility!
4. **Train employees and program your registers.** See below for helpful employee training tips, be sure to program your registers ahead of time. Store receipts must show the number of bags sold and the total amount charged for the bags.
5. **Notify customers.** Post informational signs that remind your customers to bring their reusable bags. You can find a printable poster in this toolkit, or online at [BringYourOwnSac.org](http://BringYourOwnSac.org).
6. **Start keeping accurate records of bag sales.** Stores need to keep records from date of sale for three years, of the total number of recycled paper bags and reusable bags provided and the total amount of monies collected for recycled paper bags. Stores will need to make these records available to the city upon request.



## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### When does the ban begin?

January 1, 2016

### What stores will no longer be able to give away plastic bags?

- Grocery stores and markets that sell food with gross annual sales of \$2,000,000 or more
- Large pharmacies – 10,000 square feet or more
- Convenience stores or food marts that sell food and liquor
- Stores that have a grocery or pharmacy as one of their departments (Target, Walmart, etc.)

### What other markets or stores will still have plastic bags?

Restaurants that offer takeout, farmers markets, non-profits and retail clothing stores are not subject to the ban.

### Do customers need to be charged for bringing their own bag?

No, customers are not charged for their own bags. They may bring any type of bag they wish for their purchases.

### What about produce bags and other small bags that stores use?

Bags that are exempt from the ban include produce bags, small bags with no handles used for prescriptions, or to protect food or other merchandise from being damaged.

### Are any customers exempt from being charged for a bag?

Participants in WIC or CalFresh using a voucher or EBT card may not be charged for bags. Stores can choose which reusable or paper bags to offer these customers free of charge.

These tips will help you train employees on the requirements and purpose of the ordinance—to reduce litter and landfill waste.

**1. EDUCATE:** Ensure your staff understands that the ordinance is a City of Sacramento law meant to help the environment. While retailers may provide only certain kinds of bags, customers are welcome to bring to the store any bag they like.

**2. PREPARE:** Determine whether you will provide reusable bags and for what cost, and explain this to employees. Train staff on how your registers will be programmed to charge for bags.

**3. REMIND:** Provide a refresher on packing bags. Customers' reusable bags may be of different shapes and sizes. Not all items must be bagged - large or boxed items are often easy to carry without a bag.

**4. SHARE:** Use the retailer toolkit to help spread the word. Review this fact sheet with your employees, hang the Bring Your Own Sac posters, and refer your employees to [BringYourOwnSac.org](http://BringYourOwnSac.org) for more information.

BRING YOUR OWN SAC!  
KNOW YOUR BAG



[www.BringYourOwnSac.org](http://www.BringYourOwnSac.org)  
[sacrecycle@cityofsacramento.org](mailto:sacrecycle@cityofsacramento.org)