

# Bring Your Own Bag Ordinance

Highlights of the Ordinance

## What is it?

### Effective January 1, 2019

1. No retail establishment in the City of Beverly shall provide Single Use Plastic Checkout Bags to customers to carry away goods at the point of sale.
2. Those who do provide bags to carry away goods must use recyclable paper bags made of 40% post-consumer recycled content and/or reusable bags with a thickness greater than 4.0 mils
3. Produce bags, laundry or dry-cleaning bags, newspaper bags and bags used to contain or wrap frozen foods, meat or fish are exempt from the ban.

No!



Yes!



# Enforcement

## Enforced by the Public Health Department

- First documented violation will be a written warning and a one-time 30-day grace period to cure the violation
- Subsequent violations are subject to a \$50.00 fine each day that the retail establishment is found to continue to distribute Single-Use Plastic Check-Out Bags

## Why do it?

**The Goal = Encourage use of reusable bags in an effort to help create an environmentally sustainable community**

- Studies have proven that plastic bags create many environmental problems, such as:
  - Creating litter
  - Clogging storm drains
  - Polluting our waterways and proving fatal to many species of marine life
  - Are typically petroleum based and use up a finite non-renewable source
- More than 75 municipalities in Massachusetts have passed similar ordinances and the State Legislature is considering a statewide ban



Re-Useable  
Bags Are  
Available!





Questions or  
Comments

**Contact Us:**

Mayor's Office: 978-605-2333

Health Department: 978-921-8591