

Frequently Asked Questions:

When does the ordinance go into effect? Ordinance 2024-2377 was passed January 9, 2024 and goes into effect January 1, 2025.

Why was the ordinance passed? Single-use plastics are harmful to the environment and wildlife, and are costly to taxpayers. This ordinance will help minimize litter and environmental impacts and reduce waste management costs.

What is banned by this ordinance? Single-use plastic bags - any bag made predominately of plastic regardless of thickness, and non-recycled paper bags are banned by this ordinance.

I have a stock of plastic bags. Can I use them before making the switch? Existing supplies of plastic bags and noncompliant paper bags can be used up to the enforcement date of January 1, 2025.

Which type of businesses does this affect? This ordinance affects retail establishments, which includes any store, commercial establishment, or any other location that sells perishable or nonperishable goods, including (but not limited to) clothing, food, and personal items, directly to the consumer and is located within or doing business within the geographical limits of Phoenixville Borough. Retail establishments include:

- Drugstores
- Pharmacies
- Supermarkets
- Grocery Stores
- Farmers Markets
- Convenience Food Stores
- Food Marts
- Food Trucks
- Commercial entities engaged in the retail sale of a limited line of goods such as milk, bread, soda, and snack food
- Public eating establishments (i.e., a restaurant, take-out food establishment, or any other business that prepares and sells prepared food to be eaten on or off its premises)
- Business establishments that sell clothing, hardware, or any other nonperishable goods

Are there any exceptions to this ordinance? Upon written request of a Commercial Establishment, Borough Council may, at its sole discretion, exempt a Commercial Establishment from the requirements of this Part for a period of not more than one year from the effective date upon a finding by the Council that the requirements of this section would cause undue hardship to the Commercial Establishment.

Can businesses charge customers for reusable bags? Yes - businesses may charge customers to purchase a reusable bag; the price charged is at the discretion of the business. A reusable bag means a reusable, carryout polypropylene bag that has stitched handles or a reusable bag made of cloth, other machine-washable fabric, or other material that is specifically designed and manufactured for multiple reuse.

What is the penalty for violating this ordinance? Retail establishments that violate this ordinance, after an initial written warning notice has been issued for that violation, will be liable for a citation per Ordinance 2024-2377.

What are the signage requirements? Retail establishments are required to post signs at all points of sale informing customers that single-use plastic bags and non-recycled paper bags will no longer be provided as of January 1, 2025. We have designed a sign that may be used to meet the requirement, which can be found at phoenixville.org/plastics

