



Per Ordinance 2024-2377, beginning Wednesday, January 1, 2025, commercial establishments in Phoenixville Borough are prohibited from providing single-use plastic carry out bags and non-compliant paper bags to customers.



SINGLE-USE PLASTIC
CARRY OUT BAGS



REUSABLE TOTE BAGS



RECYCLABLE PAPER BAGS

On January 9, 2024, the Borough of Phoenixville's Council members passed an ordinance prohibiting retail establishments from providing single-use plastic bags and non-recycled paper bags to their customers beginning January 1, 2025.

The use of single-use plastic bags has numerous severe environmental impacts, including increasing greenhouse gas emissions. It is estimated that by 2030, plastic production will surpass coal for climate change impact. Plastics also contribute to litter, add to ground-level ozone formation, acid deposition, and solid waste generation, as well as harm wildlife. Microplastics can enter the human body through ingestion and inhalation, causing adverse health reactions. Borough Council's goal in passing this ordinance is to conserve resources and reduce greenhouse gas emissions, reduce waste, litter, and water pollution, and to protect the public health and welfare.

Enforcement of this ordinance will not occur until 6 months after enactment to allow establishments to prepare for this change and use existing inventory of plastic bags. Informational packets are available at Borough Hall upon request.

For more information on Phoenixville's Plastic Bag Ban, please visit phoenixville.org/plastics or use the QR code:



Bag Ban Tips For PXV Businesses



Post signs at the checkout that call attention to the fact that your business supports banning single-use plastic checkout bags, and that reminds customers to remember their reusable or recycled bag.

This shows your customers you care about the environment and that your business is taking action to protect the health of our town. Studies show consumers want to use their purchasing power to support retailers that are environmentally conscious.



Do not automatically give bags at the checkout counter.

Always ask if your customer needs a bag. This will reduce the amount of bags you need to purchase, as customers end up skipping the bag more often than not.



Create an incentive system.

For example, you can encourage your customers to bring their reusable or recycled bag 10 times, and on the 10th time, they can get a free coffee or a free reusable bag that has your business logo on it, etc.



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 inventory of plastic bags and noncompliant paper bags can be used up to the enforcement date of June 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 ordinance 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, a business 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 reuse.

What is the penalty for violating this ordinance? Commercial 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? Commercial 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

We're saying goodbye to plastic.

**We will no longer
be offering single-use plastic
bags as of January 1, 2025.**



You can purchase a reusable bag from us or BYO bag

**For more information on Phoenixville's
Plastic Bag Ban, please visit
phoenixville.org/plastics**