

NorthWest Bergen Regional Health Commission
20 West Prospect Street * Waldwick, NJ 07463
Phone: (201) 445-7217 * Fax: (201) 445-4001
www.nwbrhc.org * www.facebook.com/NWBRHC
Health Officer: Gina Behre, MA, HO



PUBLIC NOTICE

The Northwest Bergen Regional Health Commission encourages residents to bring their own bags when shopping ahead of the state's "bag ban" going into effect on May 4th, 2022.

The "Bag Up NJ" campaign aims to increase sustainability by having customers bring reusable bags with them when they shop at grocery, retail, convenience stores, and pharmacies. Reusable bags must be made of nylon, cloth, or other washable fabric, have stitched handles, and be purposefully designed for multiple uses.

The new law also bans polystyrene foam food service products; and makes plastic straws at restaurants available only upon request. Exemptions to this ban include bags that hold uncooked meat, poultry, or fish, packaged loose items such as fruits or vegetables, sliced or prepared to order foods and pharmacy prescriptions.






To learn more, please click on these links to see what's new: <https://www.nj.com/news/2022/04/nj-plastic-bag-ban-23-answers-to-your-urgent-questions.html> and <https://www.nj.gov/dep/get-past-plastic/>. Please see the informational chart below for a quick reference.

To report a complaint, please contact Bergen County Department of Health Services at 201-634-2804.

Sincerely,
Gina Behre, Health Officer

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	New Norms	What is Not Permitted	Exceptions
 Grocery Store (2,500 sq ft or larger)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Customers bring reusable bags to the store ✓ Store sells reusable bags 	<p>✗ Store cannot provide single-use plastic or paper bags*</p> <p>This includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ At checkout ○ Curbside pickup ○ Home delivery 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Bags for loose items are exempt e.g., produce, greeting cards, flowers etc. ✓ Polystyrene foam for raw and deli sliced meats, including poultry and fish trays are exempt** ✓ Polystyrene foam for grocery items pre-packed by a manufacturer are exempt** e.g., instant ramen noodles
 Restaurant (includes fast food and food delivery)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Restaurants may provide single-use paper bags ✓ Food served or delivered in plastic, paper, or aluminum containers ✓ Customers bring a reusable bag ✓ Restaurants only provide plastic straws when requested 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✗ Restaurant cannot provide single-use plastic bags* ✗ Restaurant cannot serve or deliver food in polystyrene 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Paper straws are exempt and can be given without a request ✓ Polystyrene portion cups of two ounces or less, if used for hot foods or foods requiring lids are exempt** ✓ Polystyrene disposable, long-handled soda spoons when required and used for thick drinks are exempt**
 Convenience Store	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Convenience Stores may provide single-use paper bags 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✗ Store cannot provide single-use plastic bags* 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Exceptions listed above for grocery store and restaurant apply
 Pharmacy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Pharmacy may provide single-use paper bags ✓ Customers bring a reusable bag 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✗ Pharmacy cannot provide single-use plastic bags* 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Plastic bags for prescriptions are exempt
 Retail Store	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Retail Stores may provide single-use paper bags 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✗ Store cannot provide single-use plastic bags* 	