



CITY OF FRAMINGHAM

PLASTIC BAG REDUCTION ORDINANCE

PLASTIC BAG REDUCTION ORDINANCE: BEST PRACTICES FOR BUSINESSES

UPDATES TO THE PLASTIC BAG REDUCTION ORDINANCE

The City of Framingham and the Framingham BYOBag team originally created this checklist to assist business owners and retail managers with the Plastic Bag Reduction Ordinance (formerly a bylaw) that went into effect on January 1st, 2018.

The Plastic Bag Reduction Ordinance was amended in November 2019 and the amended ordinance is currently set to become effective on July 5, 2021. Major provisions of the amended ordinance include:

1. Incorporated under the term ‘single-use checkout bag’, all single-use plastic checkout bags will no longer be allowed to be offered for checkout at any retail store or grocery store in Framingham.
2. Reusable checkout bags and/or recyclable paper checkout bags shall be available to customers for a fee of no less than \$0.10 per bag. **Fees collected for checkout bags shall be retained by the store.**
3. Reusable checkout bags offered at checkout must have **(1)** stitched handles, **(2)** be able to carry 25 pounds over distance of 300 feet, and **(3)** be capable of being washed or disinfected by hand or machine.

To be compliant, ensure your retail establishment has discontinued single-use plastic checkout bags and acquired reusable bags and/or recyclable paper bags to distribute by July 5, 2021. You will not only play a visible leadership role in helping to promote the elimination of single-use plastic bags, but we hope you will continue to actively encourage your customers to use reusable bags, which are generally the most environmentally sustainable option. When shoppers bring their own bags, they and the stores can save money.

As you prepare for these changes, please contact us at bagordinance@framinghamma.gov if you need assistance. We appreciate your help making Framingham a more sustainable City!

SUGGESTIONS REGARDING THE PLASTIC BAG REDUCTION ORDINANCE

- **Signage**
 - Signs can encourage and remind your customers to use reusable bags, which are generally the most environmentally sustainable option and save stores money.
 - Ideally, signage should be colorful and eye catching.
 - Text suggestion: “Remember your reusable shopping bags.”
 - Please refer to the Framingham Sign Ordinance to confirm that your signage complies.
 - Location suggestions:
 - On front store windows facing parking lot.



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- A-Frame sign near door into store.
- On outside of doors walking into store.
- Anywhere in the store that is visible.
- **Employee Education**
 - Cashiers should ask: “Did you bring a reusable bag?”
 - If the answer is no, cashiers should offer to sell reusable bags to customers. This is a best practice in other cities with bylaws/ordinances. The statement will remind customers to bring reusable bags.
 - Baggers should ask customers with their own reusable bags if they have a preference about how they would like them to be used.
 - Baggers should ask: “How heavy would you like your bags?” Many reusable bags can hold quite a bit of weight, and often times that is more than some customers would like to carry.
 - Baggers should ask if customers designate specific bags for various types of purchases, particularly at grocery stores (e.g., meat, produce, dry goods, etc.).
- **Sale of Reusable Bags**
 - Reusable bags can be a great opportunity for store advertising!
 - Be sure to have a sufficient supply of reusable bags at all registers.
 - Try to offer different types and sizes of reusable bags, if space allows.
 - Reusable bags that the store supplies must meet the definition of a reusable bag (as defined on Page 1). Reusable bags that additionally incorporate post-consumer content can further improve sustainability.
- **Sale of Paper Bags**
 - Paper bags would ideally be made from at least 40% post-consumer recycled materials, and need to be 100% recyclable.
 - If you are offering recyclable paper checkout bags (single-use), remember that customers replacing single-use bags with reusable bags has several benefits, including reduced costs for retailers, a cleaner community, and reduced solid waste impacts on the environment. Supporting the increased use of reusable bags is good business practice.