

McMinnville City Ordinance 5018 restricts retail establishments from supplying customers with single-use plastic carry-out bags.

FAQs

Q: What is the purpose of the ordinance?

A: The City Council has taken an interest in sustainability on many levels, and wishes to: encourage the reduction of single-use items that negatively impact the local environment; encourage the use of reusable products when safe and practical to reduce the volume of the community's waste stream; and, reduce the negative impacts caused by single-use plastic bags, which increase litter, degrade local wildlife habitat, and are seldom recycled.

Q: Are any businesses exempt?

A: Yes. Restaurants and other establishments where the primary business is the preparation of food or drink may provide customers with single-use plastic carry-out bags for prepared take-out foods and liquids.

Q: The ordinance applies to which businesses?

A: The ordinance applies to stores, shops, sales outlets and vendors located within the city of McMinnville that sell goods at retail.

Q: Does the ordinance apply to farmers' markets, street fairs, festivals and other events?

A: Yes. The ordinance requires compliance from any store, shop, sales outlet or vendor located within the City of McMinnville that sells goods at retail.

Q: Are grocers' deli counters exempt for take-out food?

A: Yes. Prepared on-site foods, such as roasted chicken and soups, can be placed in protective plastic bags at the deli counter as needed to prevent leaks, spills or contamination with other food.

Q: When are retailers required to stop providing single-use plastic carry-out bags?

A: On or before September 1, 2017, for retail establishments with $\geq 10,000$ ft² in store size; on or before March 1, 2018, for all other retail establishments.

Q: What types of plastic bags are exempt from this ordinance?

A: All product and produce bags without handles used to contain or wrap bulk products, meat, fish, vegetables, fruit, flowers, frozen products, unwrapped prepared foods and baked products are exempt. Pharmacy prescription bags, laundry & dry-cleaning bags and packages that contain products packed in multiples bags also are exempt.

Q: May retailers provide reusable plastic bags?

A: Yes. Reusable bags are made out of durable materials specifically designed and manufactured for reuse. They may be provided free or charged for at the store's discretion.

Q: Am I allowed to use my own plastic bags if I bring them to the store?

A: Yes. The ordinance only restricts retailers from providing single-use plastic carry-out bags to its customers.

Q: Are retailers required to provide reusable bags or single-use paper bags at checkout?

A: No. Retailers may choose to provide either, both or neither. Some retailers must charge at

least 5 cents for each carry-out paper bag, if they provide such bags. Some small retailers may be exempt from the required 5¢ charge minimum. Retailers will know which rule applies. Carry-out paper bags contain a minimum of 40% post-consumer recycled content and have a capacity of 1100 to 1600 cubic inches. Small paper bags are exempt.

Q: Are any customers exempt from the 5¢ charge on paper bags?

A: Yes. Retail establishments may provide a reusable bag or a recyclable paper bag at no cost at the point of sale upon the request of a customer who uses a WIC, SNAP, Oregon Trail or other EBT card or voucher.

Q: Where can I take my single-use carry-out plastic bags for recycling?

A: Many large stores will continue to supply large bins or containers for recycling single-use carry-out plastic bags. If you need single-use plastic bags for some purpose, you may retrieve them from these containers.

Q: How can shoppers keep their reusable shopping bags clean?

A: Reusable shopping bags may be laundered or cleaned after carrying food to prevent cross-contamination. When using reusable bags, consumers should separate raw foods from other food products. Consumers should not use reusable food bags for other purposes.

Q: Who can I contact if I have a question or an issue about this ordinance?

A: For questions related to the Ordinance including compliance complaints contact David Koch, City Attorney 503-434-7303. For other questions or concerns contact Jeff Towery, City Manager 503-434-7302 or Melissa Grace, City Recorder/ Legal Assistant 503-435-5702.