

# California Single-Use Plastic Bag Ordinances

## City of San Francisco

Ordinance Effective Date:

- November 20, 2007: Supermarkets with gross annual sales of \$2,000,000 or more.
- May 20, 2008: Retail pharmacies with 5 or more locations.

This ordinance prohibits the distribution of single-use plastic bags at all stores that fall within the aforementioned categories. Stores are required to only offer recyclable paper bags, and/or compostable plastic bags, and/or reusable bags.

Sources:

- <http://sfgov.org>
- <http://sf311.org/index.aspx?page=552>

## Town of Fairfax

Approved by Voters: November 4, 2008

Effective Date: May 4, 2009

The ordinance requires all stores, eating places, food vendors, and retail food vendors to use only recyclable paper and/or reusable checkout bags.

Sources:

- <http://plasticbaglaws.org/legislation/state-laws/california-2/>
- [http://www.marinij.com/marinnews/ci\\_12293985](http://www.marinij.com/marinnews/ci_12293985)
- <http://www.sustainablefairfax.org/content/view/199/4/>

## City of Palo Alto

Adopted: March 30, 2009

Effective: September 18, 2009

Supermarkets are only permitted to use recyclable paper bags or, preferably, reusable bags. Single-use bags are allowed in the meat and produce departments. Up to a year exemption can be granted to the supermarkets that can show they are suffering from undue hardship as described in the Ordinance.

Sources:

- <http://www.cityofpaloalto.org/civica/filebank/blobdload.asp?BlobID=17474>
- [http://plasticbaglaws.org/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2010/05/leg\\_LA-Palo-Alto\\_ordinance2.pdf](http://plasticbaglaws.org/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2010/05/leg_LA-Palo-Alto_ordinance2.pdf)

## **Marin County**

Voted: January 18, 2011

Passed and Adopted: January 25, 2011

Effective date: January 1, 2012

Beginning January 1, 2012, single-use plastic bags are not allowed to be distributed at point of sale. All stores must provide reusable bags for customer at a reasonable price but not less than 5 cents. Reusable bags are defined as all bags that are made of materials that can withstand repeated use, can be cleaned and disinfected, and does not contain toxic amount of cadmium, lead, or other heavy metals. All stores can provide reusable bags for free until December 31, 2012, if combined with other in-store promotional programs. However, a bag charge is mandatory starting on January 1, 2013. Upon request, stores are allowed to provide recycled paper bags at reasonable fees not less than 5 cents starting January 1, 2012. A charge exemption is applied to participants of California Special Supplemental Food Program for Women, Infants, and Children and participants of Supplemental Food Program.

Sources:

- [http://www.co.marin.ca.us/depts/bs/main/sups/sdistr1/docs/February\\_2011.pdf](http://www.co.marin.ca.us/depts/bs/main/sups/sdistr1/docs/February_2011.pdf)
- [http://plasticbaglaws.org/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2010/05/leg\\_CA\\_Marin-County-ordinance\\_final.pdf](http://plasticbaglaws.org/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2010/05/leg_CA_Marin-County-ordinance_final.pdf)

## **City of San Jose**

Adopted: January 11, 2011

Effective: January 1, 2012

On and after January 1, 2012, all retail establishments can no longer use single-use plastic bags. In lieu of the plastic bag, retail establishments must provide recycled paper bags for sale at a price no less than 10 cents until December 31, 2013. Starting on January 1, 2014, the charge for recycled paper bags shall be no less than 25 cents. The fee can be exempted for participants of California Special Supplemental Food Program for Women, Infants, and Children and participants of Supplemental Food Program.

Sources:

- <http://www.sanjoseca.gov/district4/2010.asp>
- [http://plasticbaglaws.org/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2010/05/leg\\_CA\\_San-Jose\\_final-ordinance.pdf](http://plasticbaglaws.org/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2010/05/leg_CA_San-Jose_final-ordinance.pdf)

## **Los Angeles County**

Adopted: November 16, 2010

Effective:

- July 1, 2011: large supermarkets and large pharmacies

- January 1, 2012: smaller drug stores, pharmacies, supermarkets, grocery stores, convenience food stores and food marts

Stores are prohibited from providing single-use plastic bags to customers. Recycled paper bags may be provided with a 10 cents charge while reusable bags must be provided for free or for an additional fee. Exemptions are applied to participants of California Special Supplemental Food Program for Women, Infants, and Children and participants of Supplemental Food Program.

Sources:

- [http://ladpw.org/epd/PlasticBags/pdf/BagOrdinance\\_final.pdf](http://ladpw.org/epd/PlasticBags/pdf/BagOrdinance_final.pdf)
- <http://www.aboutthebag.com/>
- [http://plasticbaglaws.org/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2010/05/leg\\_CA\\_LA\\_Final-ordinance.pdf](http://plasticbaglaws.org/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2010/05/leg_CA_LA_Final-ordinance.pdf)
- [http://ladpw.org/epd/PlasticBags/pdf/BagOrdinance\\_final.pdf](http://ladpw.org/epd/PlasticBags/pdf/BagOrdinance_final.pdf)  
<http://www.cityofcalabasas.com/pdf/agendas/council/2009/101409/Item9-Staff-report.pdf>  
 (Los Angeles county is mentioned here)

## City of Malibu

Adopted: May 27, 2008

Effective: June 26, 2008

Operational date:

- December 27, 2008 for grocery stores, restaurants, food vendors, pharmacies, and city facilities, and;
- June 26, 2009, for all other retail establishments

Affected retail establishments, restaurants, for-profit and non-profit vendors cannot provide customers with single-use plastic bags or compostable plastic bags. The same ban is also applied to the city properties, including any events held within the city's properties. Exemption might be granted if the affected stores can prove without a doubt that they will suffer from undue hardship.

Sources:

- <http://www.malibucity.org/download/index.cfm/fuseaction/download/cid/13426/>
- <http://plasticbaglaws.org/legislation/state-laws/california-2/>
- <http://www.cityofcalabasas.com/pdf/agendas/council/2009/101409/Item9-Staff-report.pdf>  
 (mentioned)

## City of Calabasas

Adopted: February 9, 2011

Operational date:

- July 1, 2011 for: large stores and large pharmacies

- January 1, 2012 for: smaller pharmacy, drug store, supermarket, grocery store, convenience food store, food mart, or other entities that sell a limited line of goods.

All stores are prohibited from providing single-use plastic bags to customers. Recycled paper bags may be provided with a 10 cents charge while reusable bags must be provided for free or for an additional fee. Exemptions are applied to participants of California Special Supplemental Food Program for Women, Infants, and Children and participants of Supplemental Food Program. (Identical ordinance to Los Angeles County)

Sources:

- [http://plasticbaglaws.org/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2010/05/leg\\_CA-Calabasas-Ordinance2.pdf](http://plasticbaglaws.org/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2010/05/leg_CA-Calabasas-Ordinance2.pdf)
- <http://plasticbaglaws.org/legislation/state-laws/california-2/>

## **City of Santa Monica**

Voted: February 8, 2011

Effective day: March 9, 2011

Operational date: September 1, 2011

The ordinance prohibits the distribution of single use plastic bags at all the retail establishments, city facilities, city- sponsored events, or city permitted events within the city of Santa Monica (including farmer's markets). Only reusable bags or recyclable paper bags will be available for the costumers. A minimum fee of 10 cents shall be charged for each recyclable paper bags used in the grocery stores, convenience stores, mini-marts, liquor stores and pharmacies in the city. Bags distributed for take-out foods or liquids to be consumed outside the foods' providers premise are exempt. Also, exemptions can also be given to participants of California Special Supplemental Food Program for Women, Infants, and Children and participants of Supplemental Food Program.

Sources:

- [http://www.smgov.net/Departments/OSE/Business/Single-Use\\_Carryout\\_Bag\\_Ban.aspx](http://www.smgov.net/Departments/OSE/Business/Single-Use_Carryout_Bag_Ban.aspx)
- <http://www01.smgov.net/cityclerk/council/agendas/2011/20110208/s2011020807-C-1.htm>
- <http://www01.smgov.net/cityclerk/council/agendas/2011/20110208/s2011020807-C-1.htm>

## **Santa Clara County**

Passed: April 26, 2011

Effective: January 1, 2012

Businesses are prohibited from providing plastic bags and most single-use paper bags. Paper bags that are made of 40 % post consumer waste and are 100 % recyclable can be provided at a cost of 15 cents each. Restaurants, nonprofit and social organizations are not covered by the ordinance.

Plastic bags can still be used for fresh produce, meat, frozen and prepared foods, bakery items, plants, prescription drugs and newspapers.

Sources:

- <http://www.sccgov.org/keyboard/attachments/BOS%20Agenda/2011/April%2026,%202011/203403300/TMPKeyboard203451577.pdf>
- <http://sanfrancisco.cbslocal.com/2011/04/26/santa-clara-county-approves-plastic-bag-ban/>
- <http://www.sccgov.org/portal/site/scc/aspecial?path=%2Fv7%2FSCC%20Public%20Portal&contentId=5bb6f11a689f7210VgnVCM10000048dc4a92>