

Single-Use Plastic Bag Ban Information for Retailers

Starting November 1, 2018, businesses in unincorporated Beaufort County should not provide single-use plastic carry-out bags to their customers.

Beaufort County's Single-Use Plastic Bag Ordinance applies to any establishment in unincorporated areas of the County that provides carryout bags to its customers through its employees or independent contractors associated with the business. The bags being regulated are defined as: bags with handles made predominately of plastic and provided at check stands, cash registers, point of sale or other point of departure, for the purpose of transporting food or merchandise out of the retail establishment.

The ordinance does not apply to:

- Laundry/dry-cleaning bags, door-hanger bags, newspaper bags, or packages of multiple bags intended for use as garbage, pet waste or yard waste.
- Bags provided by pharmacist or veterinarians to contain prescription drugs or other medical necessities.
- Bags used by a customer inside a business establishment.
- Bags of any type that the customer brings to the store for their own use for carrying away from the store goods that are not placed in a bag provided by the store.

Businesses in unincorporated areas of the County with questions should contact the Beaufort County [Business License Department](#) at 843-255-2270.

The County Council of Beaufort County has adopted a Single-Use Plastic Bag Ordinance to reduce the environmental impacts and pollution from plastic bags, and promote the use of reusable bags for shopping. Customers may bring in their own re-usable bags or be provided a substitute bag from the retailer. Reusable bags are defined as being made of cloth or other machine washable fabric that has handles, or a durable plastic bag with handles that is at least 2.25 mil thick recyclable plastic and designed for multiple reuse.

Enforcement of the ordinance will be on a complaint and inspections basis. Repeat non-compliance with the term of the ordinance will be considered a violation of the Beaufort County Code. Violations will be subject to warning, citation, and/or imposition of fines after November 1.

