



## Special Events & Festivals Conditions Reusable Bag Ordinance

(updated 7/14/14)

Starting on Earth Day, April 22, 2013, customers will need to bring a reusable bag for shopping, or purchase a paper bag or reusable bag for ten cents from businesses and vendors operating in Mountain View. Plastic carryout bags less than 2.25 mil thick are banned because they are lightweight, aerodynamic and are easily windblown into trees, streets, creeks and waterways clogging utility and flood equipment, and impairing water quality.

The ordinance applies to any business or person selling perishable or non-perishable food, goods, clothing, or personal items at any store, kiosk, stand, farmer's market, or festival. Businesses exempt from the ordinance include restaurants, thrift stores, charitable food pantries, and service businesses (dry-cleaners, newspaper home delivery).

The intent of the ordinance is to reduce environmental impacts and pollution from plastic carryout bags, and promote a shift towards reusable bags as a Zero Waste measure.

### Minimum Requirements

- Requires any person selling food, goods, clothing or personal items from any store, kiosk, stand or festival to charge a minimum of ten cents (\$.10) (non-taxable) for each carryout bag provided to customers. Customers paying for goods with food stamps or WIC are exempt.
- Bans "thin" plastic carryout bags less than 2.25 mil thick.
- Carryout bags allowed must have handles, are either 40% recycled content paper bags, or reusable cloth bags, or "thick" plastic bags at least 2.25 mil thick.
- Paper carryout bags must also be 40% post-consumer content and 100% recyclable (no plastic handles); display the words "recyclable and reusable" and the manufacturer's contact information (bottom of bag or gusset is okay).
- Requires sellers to itemize the bag charge on the receipt (if a receipt is normally provided).
- Sellers retain the money from the bag charge to compensate for record-keeping requirements.
- Requires sellers to keep records of bag charges and bag supply purchases for three years and provide to City upon request.
- Allows the use of "protective bags" provided at no charge.
- Protective bags are defined as bags without handles used (1) to transport goods within the retail area to the cashier (e.g. produce within a grocery store); (2) to separate goods that may become damaged when combined together in a carryout bag (e.g. wine glasses separated from bottled wine); (3) but *not* for a single item with no other items purchased. For artwork and large bulky goods, sellers may use plastic wrap, dry cleaning bags or thick plastic trash can liners as a protective bag.

### More Information

Visit [www.MVrecycle.org](http://www.MVrecycle.org) and click on Reusable Bag Ordinance. Contact Department of Public Works, Solid Waste & Recycling at [recycle@mountainview.gov](mailto:recycle@mountainview.gov) or 650-903-6311.