



# Single-use Plastic Bag Ban

Carolyn Bowie | September 2025



DEPARTMENT OF  
**ECOLOGY**  
State of Washington



# Single-use plastic bag ban law details

**October 1, 2021 – December 30, 2025**

- Single-use Plastic Bags are banned
- Post consumer recycled content and thickness requirements for compliant bags
- Fee of at least 8 cents must be charged and retained by businesses as a taxable sale
  - Fee exemption for customers using food benefits (e.g. EBT, SNAP, WIC)



Bags <b>ALLOWED</b> with no fee			
			
<b>NO</b> Single-use Plastic Carryout Bags	<b>8¢ fee</b> Large Paper Carryout Bags <small>Made with 40% recycled content</small>	<b>8¢ fee</b> Thick Reusable Plastic Carryout Bags <small>Made with 40% recycled content and a minimum of 2.25 mil thick film</small>	<b>Fee optional</b> Green or Brown Compostable Bags <small>Any green or brown tinted film bags <b>must</b> be compostable</small>
<b>Bags <b>ALLOWED</b> with no fee</b>			
			
Durable Reusable Bags	Small Paper Bags	Produce, Meat, Bulk Foods, Bakery Goods, etc.	Flowers, Drycleaning, Newspaper bags, etc.

# Bag Ban Changes and Updates

## Beginning January 1, 2026

12 cents for plastic, 8 cents for paper

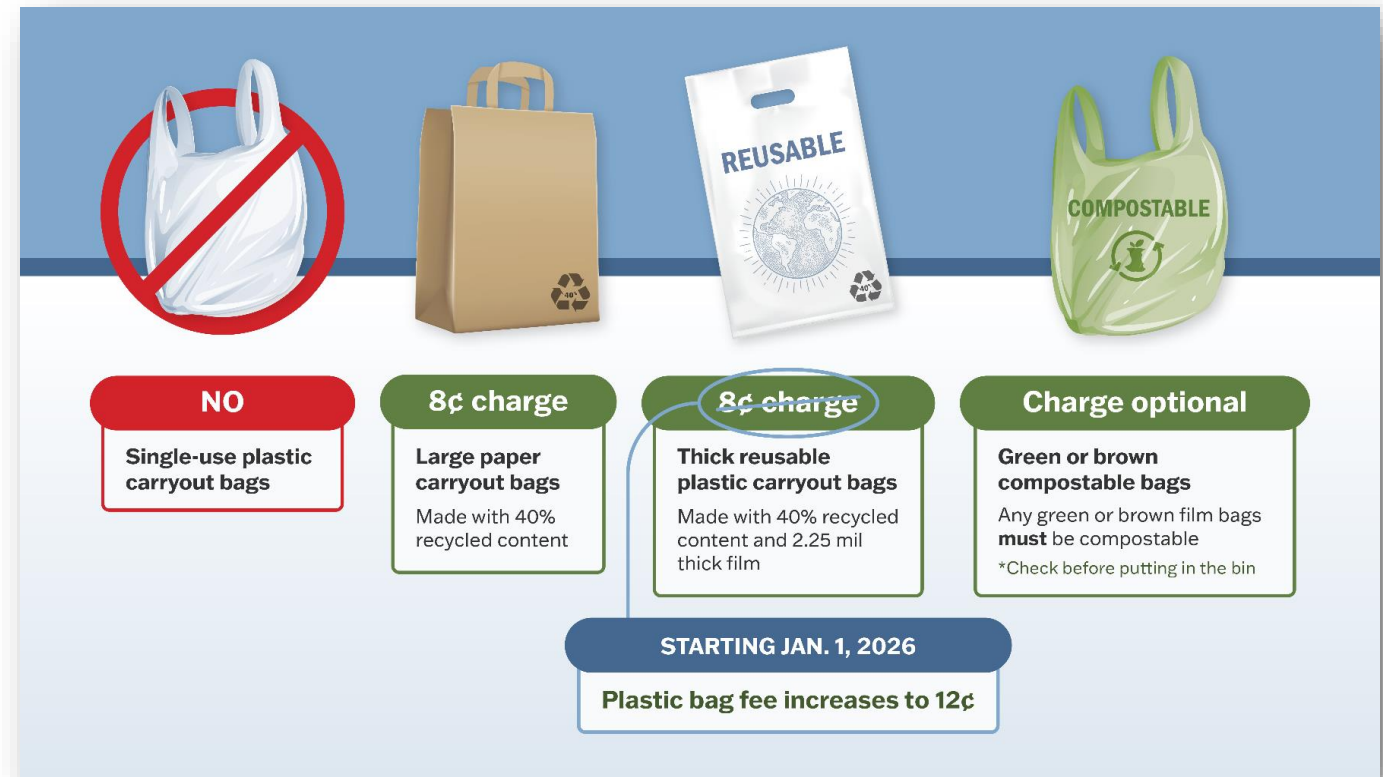
## House Bill 1293

*January 1, 2026 – December 31, 2027*

- Two-year delay in thickness increase
  - 2.25 mil thickness standard continues
- Additional 4-cent penalty to discourage plastic film 4-mil bags

## Legislative intent

- Review upcoming bag ban report from Department of Commerce
- Evaluate required bag thickness and bag fees



# Single-use Plastic Bag Ban

## Who is impacted by this law?

- Grocery stores
- Retail establishments
- Restaurants
- Farmer's markets
- Event food vendors

## Exemptions:

- Food banks – Restrictions do not apply
- Food benefits customers – Exempt from the fee





# Single-use Plastic Bag Ban

## Exemptions

### Bags **ALLOWED** with no fee



**Durable  
Reusable Bags**



**Small Paper Bags**



**Produce, Meat, Bulk Foods,  
Bakery Goods, etc.**



**Flowers, Drycleaning,  
Newspaper bags, etc.**



# Single-use Serviceware Law

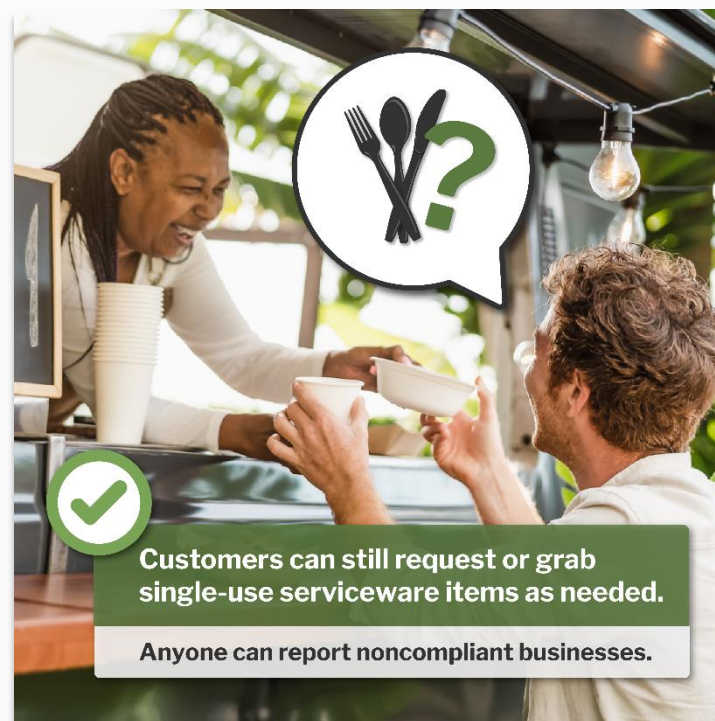
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# Single-use serveware law details

January 2022





# Single-Use Serviceware Items Include:



Knives, forks,  
spoons, chopsticks



Cocktail picks, splash  
sticks, stirrers, straws



Cold cup lids



Sauce or  
condiment packets

**Pre-packaged  
single-use utensils  
are not allowed**

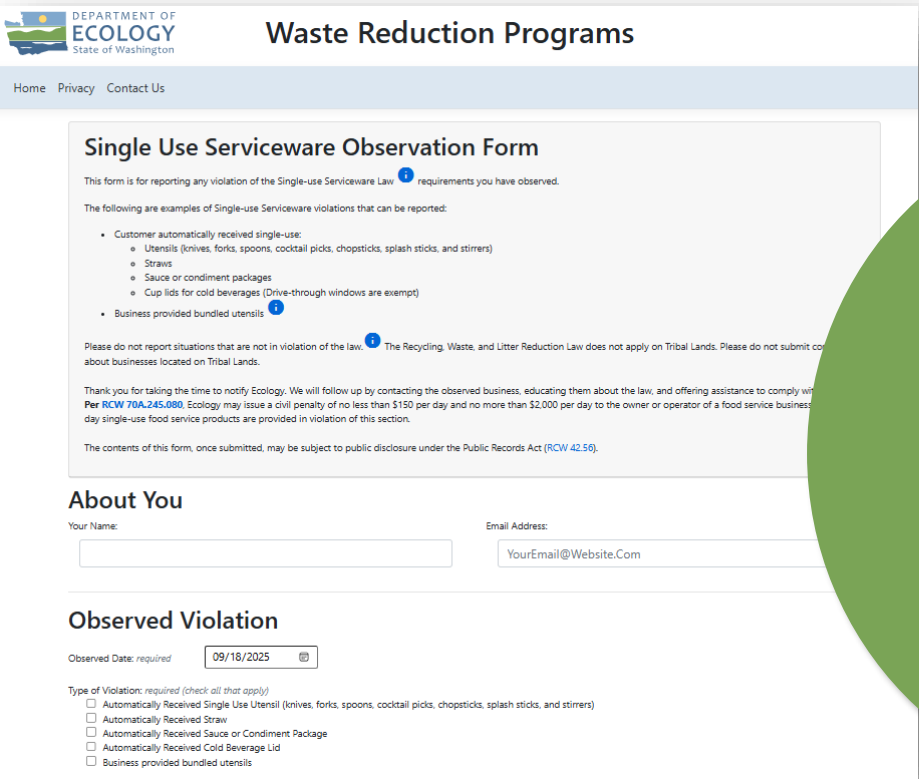




# Single-use Serviceware Information

Online reporting form

Materials translated in 17 languages



**Waste Reduction Programs**

Home Privacy Contact Us

### Single Use Serviceware Observation Form

This form is for reporting any violation of the Single-use Serviceware Law requirements you have observed.

The following are examples of Single-use Serviceware violations that can be reported:

- Customer automatically received single-use:
  - Utensils (knives, forks, spoons, cocktail picks, chopsticks, splash sticks, and stirrers)
  - Straws
  - Sauce or condiment packages
  - Cup lids for cold beverages (Drive-through windows are exempt)
- Business provided bundled utensils

Please do not report situations that are not in violation of the law. The Recycling, Waste, and Litter Reduction Law does not apply on Tribal Lands. Please do not submit complaints about businesses located on Tribal Lands.

Thank you for taking the time to notify Ecology. We will follow up by contacting the observed business, educating them about the law, and offering assistance to comply with the law. Per **RCW 70A.245.080**, Ecology may issue a civil penalty of no less than \$150 per day and no more than \$2,000 per day to the owner or operator of a food service business if single-use food service products are provided in violation of this section.

The contents of this form, once submitted, may be subject to public disclosure under the Public Records Act (RCW 42.56).

### About You

Your Name:

Email Address:

### Observed Violation

Observed Date: required

Type of Violation: required (check all that apply)

- ☐ Automatically Received Single Use Utensil (knives, forks, spoons, cocktail picks, chopsticks, splash sticks, and stirrers)
- ☐ Automatically Received Straw
- ☐ Automatically Received Sauce or Condiment Package
- ☐ Automatically Received Cold Beverage Lid
- ☐ Business provided bundled utensils




**Washington 州 2022 年 1 月 1 日生效**

## 一次性服務器皿法

適用於餐飲業的店家

顧客可以要求、確認或選擇自己的一次性用品。

可重複使用店家減少浪費。

店家可以常備次性用品。

一次性用品或器具包括：

- 刀、叉、湯匙、筷子
- 雞尾酒簪、攪拌棒、攪拌器、吸管
- 冷飲杯蓋

如需申請 ADA 之便民服務，請致電 (360) 742-9874 或寄送電子郵件至 bagbarney@ecy.wa.gov 聯絡生態環境保護。或上 <https://ecology.wa.gov/accessibility>。

如需中繼服務或 TTY，請致電 711 或 877-833-6341。

如果您使用的語言不是英語，可以使用免費語言服務。致電 (360) 742-9874。

DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY State of Washington (360) 407-6000 | [ecy.wa.gov](https://ecy.wa.gov)

### Ley de artículos de servicio de un solo uso

- Las empresas no podrán proporcionar a los clientes artículos de un solo uso de manera predeterminada.
- Los clientes podrán confirmar que quieren dichos artículos ante la pregunta de la empresa, solicitar los artículos o seleccionarlos en el área de autoservicio del establecimiento.
- Los artículos o utensilios de un solo uso incluyen los siguientes:
  - cuchillos, tenedores, cucharas, palillos chinos;
  - palillos de cócteles, palillos retenedores de calor, mezcladores;
  - sorbetes;
  - paquetes de condimentos;
  - tapas para vasos con bebidas frías.
- Los artículos de un solo uso no deben ser empaquetados juntos en paquetes, para que los clientes puedan elegir un solo artículo.
- Esta ley no aplica a los artículos que incluyen los siguientes:
  - Platos, tazones, tazas u otros envases de un solo uso para contener comida o bebidas.
  - Tapas de bebidas calientes.
  - Envoltorios de artículos para llevar.
  - Artículos de un solo uso proporcionados en instalaciones médicas/sanitarias.
- Las tapas para bebidas frías solo podrán proporcionarse por defecto en las ventanillas de servicio en el automóvil, en grandes sedes permanentes de deportes profesionales o en eventos musicales (capacidad mínima de 2500 clientes).
- Para reducir los desechos, incentivamos el uso de utensilios reutilizables siempre que sea posible.
- Busque Código Revisado de Washington (Revised Code of Washington, RCW) 70A.245.080 para leer los detalles de la ley.

**No se permiten utensilios de un solo uso empaquetados en conjunto**

Para solicitar una adaptación en base a la ADA, comuníquese con el Departamento de Ecología por teléfono llamando al (360) 742-9874, envíe un correo electrónico a [bagbarney@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:bagbarney@ecy.wa.gov), o bien, visite el sitio web <https://ecology.wa.gov/accessibility>.

Si usted habla un idioma que no es inglés, contamos con servicios gratis de idiomas. Llame al (360) 742-9874.

**¿Tiene preguntas?**  
Llame al (360) 407-6000.

[Ecy.wa.gov/serviceware](https://ecy.wa.gov/serviceware)

[Ecology.wa.gov/serviceware](https://ecology.wa.gov/serviceware)

[serviceware@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:serviceware@ecy.wa.gov)



# Thank you

Carolyn Bowie

[Carolyn.Bowie@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:Carolyn.Bowie@ecy.wa.gov)

425-698-3722



[Ecology.wa.gov/bagban](https://ecology.wa.gov/bagban)  
[bagban@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:bagban@ecy.wa.gov)



[Ecology.wa.gov/serviceware](https://ecology.wa.gov/serviceware)  
[serviceware@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:serviceware@ecy.wa.gov)