



Reusable Bag Program & Plastic Bag Ban Information

Why did the Manhattan Beach City Council ban Plastic Bags?

The City Council passed the ban to help prevent plastic bag litter. The Manhattan Beach community is very concerned about preserving the quality of our beach and ocean. Plastic bags make up a significant portion of the litter found in storm drains and contribute to the vast amount of plastic found in the marine environment. Even though plastic bags are recyclable, less than 5% are actually recycled by consumers. The average Los Angeles County resident takes home 600 plastic bags per year—at 6 billion total bags per year. That's a lot of plastic bags!

When does the plastic bag ban take effect?

The ban takes effect for Manhattan Beach grocery stores, pharmacies, restaurants and City facilities on *February 28, 2009*. The ban takes effect for all other retail establishments on *August 15, 2009*.

Are all plastic bags included in the ban?

All plastic bags distributed at the point-of-sale for carrying purchased goods are included in the ban. Plastic bags distributed within a grocery store for the purpose of carrying produce to the check-out are not included in the ban. Plastic bags used to cover dry cleaning items are not included in the ban.

Does the ban include compostable/biodegradable bags?

Yes, the ban applies to all forms of plastic bags, including compostable and biodegradable bags, distributed at the point of sale.

What bag alternatives are acceptable at the point of sale?

Paper bags are an acceptable alternative. However, the best sustainable alternative is a reusable bag.

Why are reusable bags the best alternative?

The widespread use of reusable bags will help to conserve energy, conserve natural resources, reduce landfill waste, reduce plastic bag litter, protect marine wildlife and help lead to a cleaner and more sustainable environment.

What is the City doing to promote the use of reusable bags?

The City is working directly with local businesses and the community to promote the use of reusable bags. We will distribute information through our website, ads in the local papers, emails, and in our utility bills. We will also provide information and give away reusable bags at local events.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT REUSABLE BAGS AND THE PLASTIC BAG BAN
PLEASE VISIT THE CITY'S WEBSITE
AND SELECT THE GOING GREEN ICON
WWW.CITYMB.INFO**