

Scituate Plastic Bag Ban FAQ

1. **What is Scituate's Plastic Bag Ban Bylaw?**

At the November 14, 2018 Special Town Meeting, Scituate passed a bylaw banning single use, thin plastic carryout bags. The goal of this bylaw is **to reduce the common use of plastic checkout bags** and to **encourage the use of reusable bags** by consumers, thereby reducing local land and marine pollution, advancing solid waste reduction, protecting the Town's unique natural beauty and irreplaceable natural resources, and improving the quality of life for the citizens of the Town.

2. **When did the ban on single-use plastic carryout bags take effect?**

The Plastic Bag Bylaw took effect on March 1, 2019, with existing stock being phased out by September 1, 2019. Effective September 1, 2019, Scituate establishments must only provide checkout bags which are reusable (with stitched on handles and a minimum of 175 uses), recyclable, or compostable.

3. **What checkout bags are establishments allowed to provide?**

A. Recyclable Paper Bag - a paper bag that is 100% recyclable and contains at least 40% post-consumer recycled content. OR

B Reusable Bag – a bag with stitched on handles that is made solely of, or in combination of, natural cloths, synthetic fibers, or other washable material other than any type of polyethylene or polyvinyl chloride, and is durable, non-toxic, and specifically designed for multiple reuse (a minimum of 175 uses). OR

C. Compostable Plastic Bag - a plastic bag that conforms to the current ASTM D6400 for compostability.

4. **Are there any exemptions?**

Yes. Religious and Scituate charitable organizations are exempt from the terms of this bylaw. Dry cleaning, newspaper, artwork, and bags used to contain produce, meat and other wet items to the point of purchase, are permissible.

6. **May I still use blue Scituate trash bags for my garbage?**

Yes. The goal of this bylaw is **to reduce the common use of plastic checkout bags** and to **encourage the use of reusable bags** by consumers.

The full bylaw, Section 32070, can be viewed at:

https://www.scituatema.gov/sites/scituatema/files/pages/2019072209_gen_bylaws.pdf.

If you are interested in strategies for encouraging customers to Bring Their Own Bags, please contact Scituate Plastic Bags at scituateplasticbags@gmail.com or on Facebook at Scituate Plastic Bags.