

ALTERNATIVES

- **Plastic Bags:**
 - Reusable Cloth Bags: Made from durable materials like cotton or hemp, washable and can be used multiple times.
- **Plastic Straws:**
 - Paper Straws: Compostable, made from renewable resources.
 - Bamboo Straws: Reusable, durable, and biodegradable.
 - Metal Straws: Washable, reusable, made of stainless steel or aluminum.
 - Glass Straws: Durable, reusable, and recyclable.
 - Silicone Straws: Flexible, reusable, suitable for all ages.
- **Polytyrene (Styrofoam) Containers:**
 - Paper Containers: Biodegradable, often coated with compostable lining.
 - Biodegradable or Compostable Containers: Made from plant-based materials.
 - Glass Containers: Reusable, durable, recyclable.
 - Aluminum Containers: Recyclable, often with high recycled material content.
 - Bamboo or Wood Containers: Sustainable, biodegradable.



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Montgomery Township, PA



SINGLE-USE PRODUCT REDUCTION ORDINANCE FACTS



Ordinance 23-337

In effect April 22, 2024



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SUMMARY

The Single-Use Product Reduction Ordinance (Ordinance 23-337) aims to reduce the amount of plastic entering our landfills, thus contributing to a healthier planet. The Ordinance prohibits stores and restaurants from distributing single-use plastic bags or polystyrene containers, such as Styrofoam. Furthermore, plastic straws will only be available by specific request from the customer, although this is depending on the establishment's supply.

We strongly encourage shoppers to bring their own reusable bags. However, stores may provide paper bags made of at least 40% post-consumer recycled content for a minimum charge of 10 cents (\$.10) per bag to customers at checkout.

TIMELINE

- May 23, 2022: Board of Supervisors adopts Resolution on reducing single-use plastics.
- October 10, 2022: Resident proposes single-use plastic bag ban.
- Feb/Mar 2023: Surveys distributed to gather public opinion on single-use plastic ban.
- April 10, 2023: Survey results presented at Board meeting.
- August 14, 2023: Advertisement of Single-Use Plastics Reduction Ordinance.
- September 26, 2023: Adoption of Single-Use Plastics Reduction Ordinance.
- April 22, 2024: Single-Use Plastics Reduction Ordinance goes into effect.



EXCEPTIONS

The following are exempt from the definition of a "Single-Use Plastic Bag."

- Product Bags, which are used for:
 - Carrying raw or perishable foods like meats and vegetables inside a store until they're bought.
 - Holding bulk items like dried fruits, vegetables, nuts, grains, or candy.
 - Keeping food items separate for health and safety, preventing them from touching other purchases or skin.
 - Packaging hot, ready-to-eat foods or bakery goods that aren't wrapped.
 - Holding flowers, plants, or similar items.
 - Containing live animals, like fish or insects, sold in pet stores.
 - Carrying caustic chemicals sold in retail.
- A bag that comes in a pack with other bags, made and packed during manufacturing. This includes bags for storing food, trash bags, or bags for pet waste.
- Newspaper delivery bags
- Laundry or dry cleaner bags.