

BRING YOUR OWN BAG

Mill Valley Plastic Bag Ban



The Mill Valley City Council has recently updated the City's shopping bag ordinance as part of the City's continued work with residents and businesses to reduce waste. The ordinance now applies to most retail stores, businesses and restaurants within Mill Valley.

- No plastic carryout bags registers.
- Mandatory ten cent (\$0.10) fee for paper bags. All monies collected by a store for reusable and/or paper bags may be used by the store for any lawful purpose.
- March 19-August 16 2015 grace period for implementation. Fines will begin August 17, 2015 for stores not in compliance with the ordinance.

Applicable Businesses. All retail stores, business, facility, vendor or organization that sell or provide goods or materials directly to a customer. Examples include: grocery stores, pharmacies, convenience stores/mini marts, department stores, hardware stores, restaurants, catering truck, and vendors at farmers market or city-sponsored events. Dry cleaners exempt.

Applicable Bags. The plastic bag prohibition does not apply to "product bags" (e.g. bags for meats, produce, bulk items or prescription medication), or with respect to restaurants, to prevent spillage of take-out food items. "Doggie bags" received at sit down restaurants for left-overs are not subject to the paper bag fee.

Customers. Customers may utilize any type of bag that they bring to a store or may carry away goods not in a bag after purchase. Customers participating in Supplemental Food Programs are exempt from fees.

Signage. Stores must post signage clearly indicating bag charge, and must indicate the number of paper or reusable bags purchased on a customer's receipt.