

## Frequently Asked Questions About Gloucester's Plastic Bag Ordinance

### What happens when the Plastic Bag Ordinance goes into effect?

Starting **January 1st, 2019** retail stores will no longer distribute single use plastic bags at checkout. Thin plastic bags will still be available in the produce, deli, meat/seafood, and bulk sections of grocery stores.

### What will retailers use?

Stores may provide you with any of the following:

- Compostable bags made of organic materials
- Paper bags
- Cardboard boxes
- Stores may sell reusable bags made from cloth, canvas, or thick plastic materials for a fee

### What can you bring to a retailer in order to accommodate your shopping needs?

You can bring your own reusable bags or boxes, or you can bring your own plastic bags that you've saved from other shopping trips. You can also use the paper bags or boxes provided at the store.

### How do you manage pet waste or personal items?

You can use produce bags, newspaper bags, or any bags you saved from your recent purchases. If you don't need these bags, you can share with a neighbor who may want to use them. You can also purchase pet waste and garbage bags, such as the 13 gallon waste bags that will fit small waste barrels. You can buy plastic waste bags of any size at your local grocer.

### How do you keep reusable bags clean?

Designate one set of reusable bags for groceries – do not use them for gym clothes or other errands. Reusable bags made of fabric should be safe for machine washing with a mild detergent. Reusable bags made of plastics should be rinsed or wiped clean with a damp cloth and general kitchen cleaner. Cleaning is recommended monthly or whenever bags contact raw meat or fish.

**For additional questions,** contact the Gloucester Clean City Commission at

[GloucesterMACleanCommission@gmail.com](mailto:GloucesterMACleanCommission@gmail.com) or your City Councilor.

