

# Key Facts

## On the Borough of Paramus Plastic Bag Ban

### THIS BAN WILL AFFECT ALL RETAILERS

Including grocery stores, restaurants, corner stores, pharmacies, clothing shops, hardware stores, food trucks, beer and liquor stores, and every other retail store that provides bags to customers at point of sale.

### THE PURPOSE OF THIS BAN

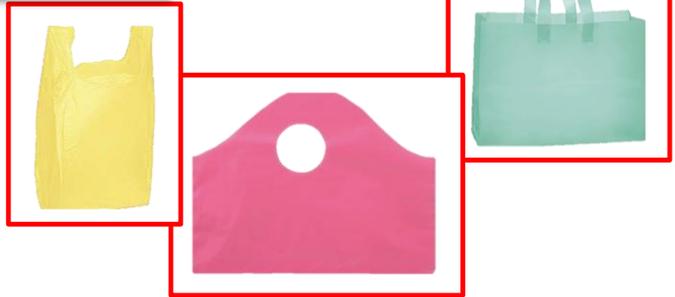
Is to reduce plastic's impact on our air, water, and soil and to encourage environmentally responsible habits. Paramus residents dispose of over 13.5 million plastic bags every year.

## About the Ban (Ordinance 19-16-A Chap. 450)

### WHICH BAGS ARE BANNED?

The ordinance applies to plastic bags given at the point of sale beginning:

**January 1, 2020**



### WHICH BAGS ARE ALLOWED?

1. **Bring your own bag** of any type when you shop. Keep it clean!
2. Reusable bags\* that are washable with stitched handles.
3. Recyclable paper bags\* made from recycled material.

\* Retailers may charge a fee for bags.



### EXCEPTIONS

- Garbage, pet, or yard waste bags.
- Loose produce or bulk item bags.
- Bags to contain or wrap meat, fish, flowers, potted plants, or unwrapped prepared foods or bakery goods.
- Prescription bags, newspaper bags, and laundry/dry cleaning bags.





# Key Facts

## On the Borough of Paramus Plastic Bag Ban (cont.)

### ENFORCEMENT

Retailers that supply banned bags to customers after January 1, 2020 shall first be subject to a written warning. Failure to comply after the written warning could result in fines up to \$500.

### DOES THIS AFFECT ME?

If you now provide single-use plastic bags or non-recyclable paper bags to customers, your business will be affected. See below to plan, prepare, and implement changes.

## Plan

### CONSIDER ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

Businesses can still provide customers with an alternative bag (for a cost or for free) or have customers bring their own bags. Each business has unique needs and costs, and you should weigh the best long-term option for your business.

- **Don't offer a bag at all**
- **Sell woven or fabric bags**
- **Offer paper bags**
- **Offer cardboard boxes**
- **A combination of the above**

## Prepare

### PHASE OUT EXISTING STOCK

Retailers should adjust their purchasing to ensure that they deplete existing stock of non-compliant bags by January 1, 2020. Retailers will face fines if they supply banned bags to customers after January 1, 2020.

### TRAIN YOUR TEAM

Manage the ban in your business by preparing and training your team, particularly those who have regular contact with customers, such as checkout operators and customer service staff. Depending on the bag alternatives you offer, you may also need to consider changes to packing processes, point-of-sale areas and displays, or other operations.

## Implement

### INFORM YOUR CUSTOMERS

While the Borough of Paramus will run an educational campaign to educate and prepare customers for the ban, retailers should be prepared to handle customer questions and objections.

### FOR MORE INFORMATION

Visit the Borough website:

[www.paramusborough.org](http://www.paramusborough.org)

If your business has a type of bag that is banned for which there is no alternative, request an exemption by contacting the Paramus Borough Clerk:

**BoroClerk@paramusborough.org**

# Key Facts

## On the Borough of Paramus Polystyrene Ban

### THIS BAN WILL AFFECT ALL RETAIL FOOD VENDORS

Including grocery stores, restaurants, corner stores, food trucks, beer and liquor stores, and every other retail store that provides prepared food to customers.

### THE PURPOSE OF THIS BAN

Is to reduce polystyrene, a known neurotoxin, which can leach into food and drink, threatening human health. Expanded polystyrene foam cannot be recycled.

## About the Ban (Ordinance 19-16-A Chap. 450)

### WHICH CONTAINERS ARE BANNED?

The ordinance applies to food service items and packaging provided to customers beginning:

**January 1, 2020**



### WHICH CONTAINERS ARE ALLOWED?

1. Bring your own clean container for leftovers when you dine out.
2. Reusable plates, bowls, mugs, baskets, etc.
3. Containers made from compostable material such as wax paper.
4. "To-Go" containers made from recyclable plastic or aluminum.



### EXCEPTIONS

- Straws, cup lids, and utensils
- Pre-packaged food
- Meat and vegetable trays
- Transparent covering (i.e. Saran Wrap™)
- Hospitals and nursing homes are exempt

Contact the Borough Clerk for other exemptions.





# Key Facts

## On the Borough of Paramus Polystyrene Ban (cont.)

### ENFORCEMENT

Retailers that package prepared food in polystyrene after January 1, 2020 shall first be subject to a written warning. Failure to comply after the written warning could result in fines up to \$500.

### DOES THIS AFFECT ME?

If you now provide your customers food in lightweight polystyrene foam containers, your business will be affected. See below to plan, prepare, and implement changes.

## Plan

### CONSIDER ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

Food vendors can still provide customers with an alternative containers and food wrappings. Consider encouraging customers to bring their own containers. Each business has unique needs, and you should weigh the best long-term option for your business.

- Washable dishes/cutlery
- Aluminum containers
- Plastic containers
- Paper/Cardboard containers
- A combination of the above

## Prepare

### PHASE OUT EXISTING STOCK

Retailers should adjust their purchasing to ensure that they deplete existing stock of polystyrene foam containers by January 1, 2020. Retailers will face fines if they supply banned containers to customers after January 1, 2020.

### TRAIN YOUR TEAM

Manage the ban in your business by preparing and training your team, particularly those who have regular contact with customers, such as checkout operators and customer service staff. Depending on the polystyrene alternatives you offer, you may also need to consider changes to packing processes, point-of-sale areas and displays, or other operations.

## Implement

### INFORM YOUR CUSTOMERS

While the Borough of Paramus will run an educational campaign to educate and prepare customers for the ban, retailers should be prepared to handle customer questions and objections

### FOR MORE INFORMATION

Visit the Borough website:

[www.paramusborough.org](http://www.paramusborough.org)

If your business uses a container that is banned for which there is no alternative, request an exemption by contacting the Paramus Borough Clerk:

**BoroClerk@paramusborough.org**