

Single-Use Carryout Bags

City of Davis Municipal Code 32.05

Please note: some retail stores fall under additional restrictions due to State law.

Retail sales and take-out food orders:

- Single-use plastic carryout bags may not be given to customers
- Carryout bags must be recycled paper or reusable

Retail sales must charge a minimum of 10¢ per paper or reusable bag

- Businesses may exempt customers paying for goods with WIC, CalFresh SNAP or other food stamp cards from bag fees.
- Businesses retain money collected from bag charges.
- The 10-cent paper bag pass-through fee is exempt from sales tax.

Carryout Bag Options



Bags used for these purposes are exempt from the ordinance:

- Bags used to package loose bulk items, such as fruit, vegetables, nuts, grains, candy, cookies or small hardware items;
- Bags used to contain or wrap frozen foods, meat or fish, whether prepackaged or not;
- Bags used to contain or wrap flowers, potted plants or other items where damage to or contamination of other goods placed together in the same bag may be a problem. This includes paper bags to protect bottles, newspaper bags, laundry dry-cleaning bags, plastic bags around ice cream or other wet items, small paper bags for greeting cards and plastic bags that enclose soup containers for take-out food orders.
- Bags used to contain unwrapped, prepared goods or bakery goods.
- Bags provided by pharmacists to contain prescription drugs.
- Bags provided for leftover food from sit down dining (“doggy bags”).
- Newspaper bags, door-hanger bags or laundry dry-cleaning bags.



Paper bags must meet certain criteria:

- Carryout bags must be made from at least 40% post-consumer recycled content.
- An eight pound-rated or smaller paper carryout bag must be made from at least 20% post-consumer recycled content.
- The recycled content percentage must be printed on the paper carryout bag.
- The paper carryout bag must be recyclable and compostable (no plastic or cloth handles or other components).



Reusable bags must meet certain criteria:

- Must be machine washable or easily cleaned or disinfected.
- Does not contain lead, cadmium, or any other heavy metal in toxic amounts, as defined by State and Federal standards for packaging or reusable bags.
- Reusable plastic bags must be at least 2.25 mils thick.
- Have a minimum lifetime of 125 uses (able to carry a minimum of 22 pounds 125 times over a distance of at least 175 feet).



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