



Plastic Bag Reduction Program Specifics

Only stores that require a Food Service License from the Baltimore City Health Department are required to register and maintain records. If you do not need a Food Service License, you do not need to register however you must post the appropriate signage at the registers as required by law. Please see the section pertaining to non-food vendors at the bottom of the full document for information pertaining to your establishment. For the food dealer with a Baltimore City Health Department Food Service License, you must register online and have an active email account. If you do not have a computer, free internet access is available at your local library branch. For library locations please contact the Enoch Pratt Free Library at 410-396-5430. Free email accounts are available through many different servers including Yahoo.com, Hotmail.com, and Gmail.com.

IF YOU CHOOSE NOT TO USE PLASTIC BAGS, AND USE ONLY PAPER OR RE-USABLE BAGS, YOU DO NOT HAVE TO REGISTER FOR THE PROGRAM. PLEASE SEND AN EMAIL TO sustainability@baltimorecity.gov TO NOTIFY THE OFFICE OF SUSTAINABILITY OF YOUR CHOICE.

PLEASE DOWNLOAD AND READ THIS ENTIRE DOCUMENT BEFORE REGISTERING FOR DISTRIBUTION OF PLASTIC BAGS

To Register, Please Click Here:

<http://cityservices.baltimorecity.gov/PlasticBagReduction/>

Plastic Bag Distribution:

1. The food dealer will not distribute single-use plastic bags to a customer unless said customer specifically requests one.
2. If requested, a plastic bag given by a food dealer must say in words visible to the consumer "Please return to a participating store for recycling." Please check with your plastic bag sales representative about this wording.
3. The food dealer must maintain a sign stating this policy at every checkout counter.

Black & White Register Signage:

<http://cleanergreenerbaltimore.org/uploads/files/B&W%20Register%20signs.pdf>

Color Register Signage:

<http://cleanergreenerbaltimore.org/uploads/files/Register%20signs%20color.pdf>

Collection Bin:

1. The food dealer must provide at least one collection bin for recycling single-use plastic bags that is:
 - a. Visible and easily accessible to customers; and
 - b. Clearly marked as a receptacle for recycling plastic bags.
 - c. Click below to print the approved signage:

8.5 x 11 Version:

<http://cleanergreenerbaltimore.org/uploads/files/Final%20Recycle%20Here%208%205%20x%2011.pdf>

11 x 17 Version:

<http://cleanergreenerbaltimore.org/uploads/files/Final%20Recycle%20Here%20color%2011%20x%2017.pdf>

2. The food dealer must contract for the periodic recycling of the bin's contents. The following two entities offer these services and are the two of whom the City is aware. The City can not recommend any single company. Any business contracting with either of these entities should investigate market options for these services as they would any other service that the food dealer uses. The two entities are EcoPoise Waste Solutions, Inc. (www.eco-poise.com) and International Paper (www.ipaper.com). Additional information about recycling bags can be found at www.plasticbagrecycling.org

Reusable Bags for Sale:

1. The food dealer must make reusable bags available on the premises for purchase by the customer.
2. The food dealer must maintain a sign at the front of the store reminding customers to bring in their own reusable bags. Click below to print the approved signage:

8.5 x 11 Version:

<http://cleanergreenerbaltimore.org/uploads/files/Final%20Reusable%20Bag%208%205%20x%2011.pdf>

11 x 17 Version:

<http://cleanergreenerbaltimore.org/uploads/files/Final%20Reusable%20Bag%2011%20x%2017.pdf>

Reports and Records:

All food dealers required to register must do the following:

1. The food dealer must maintain records of and submit to the Baltimore Office of Sustainability a semi-annual report that specifies:
 - a. The number of plastic and paper bags in inventory at the start
 - b. The number of plastic and paper bags purchased during the six month period
 - c. The number of plastic and paper bags in inventory at the end of the six month period
 - d. The number of reusable bags in inventory at the start
 - e. The number of reusable bags purchased during the six month period
 - f. The number of reusable bags in inventory at the end of the six month period
 - g. The number of reusable bags sold during the reporting period
 - h. Total weight of the plastic recycled during the period
 - i. (optional) If the food dealer gives any further incentives for customers to bring reusable bags (such as a 5 cent credit per bag) please specify it in the report.
 - j. The number of transactions in which customers took advantage of the aforementioned incentive and the number of reusable bags they used.
2. The food dealer must maintain these records for a period of no less than two years.
3. The food dealer is required to submit these records to the Office of Sustainability upon request. All registration and records will be kept online through the Office of Sustainability website www.baltimoresustainability.org. Please communicate with the Office of Sustainability through this website and the following email address: sustainability@baltimorecity.gov

Violations:

1. The food dealer understands that if found in violation of the rules and regulations of the Plastic Bag Reduction Program they are subject to civil or criminal remedies authorized by law, including an injunction to compel compliance and/or a fine of:
 - a. \$250.00 for a first offense
 - b. \$500.00 for a second offense in a six month period
 - c. \$1000.00 for a third offense in a six month period
2. Each day the food dealer is found in violation of the Plastic Bag Reduction Program is a separate offense

Requirements for Non-Food dealers:

All dealers, whether of food or other goods, who offer to provide checkout or carryout bags, must prominently post at their registers a policy of providing plastic bags only if requested by the customer. The signage is available to print on the Office of Sustainability website (www.baltimoresustainability.org) or from the following links:

Black & White Register Signage:

<http://cleanergreenerbaltimore.org/uploads/files/B&W%20Register%20signs.pdf>

Color Register Signage:

<http://cleanergreenerbaltimore.org/uploads/files/Register%20signs%20color.pdf>