

**Summary of important provisions:**  
**Draft Ordinance for the Management of Plastic and Paper Checkout Bags in Darien**

Please refer to the text of the draft ordinance which is attached.

The goal of the proposed ordinance is to reduce bag waste in the Town of Darien by encouraging the use of reusable checkout bags, and prohibiting single use plastic checkout bags and non-recyclable paper checkout bags.

A customer may use bags of any type they bring to the store with them.

The proposed ordinance would affect consumers and business establishments in the following manner:

As of January 1, 2020:

Stores over 10,000 sq. ft. will be required to offer to customers:

- a. A plastic bag with a minimum of 12 mil thickness and/or
- b. A recycled paper bag made of 40% post-consumer recycled material with a charge of \$.10 (ten cents), which the store will retain. The customer will be notified of the charge by signage or by a verbal statement, and their receipt will indicate the number of bags provided and the total amount of the fee paid.

As of January 1, 2021:

Stores under 10,000 sq. ft. will be required to offer to customers:

- a. A plastic bag with a minimum of 12 mil thickness and/or
- b. A recycled paper bag made of 40% post-consumer recycled material.

Stores under 10,000 sq. ft. are permanently exempted from charging a fee.

This timeline was made with the intention of allowing all stores adequate time to use up their current inventory of checkout bags.

Some exceptions: bags used for newspapers, dry-cleaning, garment bags, pet waste, and yard waste; bags sold in bulk such as for garbage. Please see the Ordinance for a full list.

The Environmental Compliance Officer will issue a warning for the first violation. The fine for the first citation will be \$150. Subsequent violations will be fined \$250.00.

The full draft of the ordinance is attached.

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