



Changes Coming to City of Monte Vista Businesses

The State of Colorado Plastic Pollution Reduction Act, or HB21-1162, was passed in 2021 to reduce and mitigate plastic pollution in Colorado. This two-phased law becomes effective on January 1, 2023, and puts a 10-cent fee on paper and plastic carryout bags used at checkout and for pickup and delivery orders at large retail stores. On January 1, 2024, plastic carryout bags will be banned at large retail stores, and paper carryout bags will continue to be offered for the 10-cent fee. Polystyrene (brand name Styrofoam) containers will also be banned in 2024 at retail food establishments such as restaurants, fast-food chains, grocery stores, and convenience stores.

Plastic Pollution

<https://youtu.be/cJMpymCDlko>

para ver este video en español, haz clic [aquí](#)

Plastic pollution is a global problem that has drawn attention from many countries, states, communities, and individuals. Unfortunately, not all plastic can be recycled, and its lightweight nature means that on windy days it can be carried out of trash and recycling bins and into our waterways and natural areas. Single-use plastics (plastic bags, straws, take-out containers, plastic utensils, Styrofoam, etc.) are especially problematic.

The first phase of the Plastic Pollution Program becomes effective on January 1, 2023, when large retailers will charge shoppers a 10-cent fee for plastic and paper bags used at checkout and for pickup and delivery orders. It will affect large retail stores like home-improvement stores, department stores, clothing stores, pharmacies, convenience stores, and more. The state law will not affect small stores with three or fewer Colorado locations. Bag fees do not apply to shoppers participating in state and federal food programs like Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and Women, Infant and Children (WIC).

Both the State and City laws aim to discourage using single-use plastic items by charging fees and eventually banning them while providing an alternative like paper bags. These laws also encourage making small, sustainable changes like using a reusable bag or bringing your own containers to pack leftovers from a restaurant.

The State law split revenue collected from bag fees 40/60 between the retailer and the City of Monte Vista. Retailers can use the funding for staff training, recovering costs from purchasing paper bags, and promotional items or signage for their stores. The rest will go to the City of Monte Vista for administration and compliance costs and support plastic pollution and waste reduction programs and increase efforts to reduce, reuse and recycle. This is a fee and is not subject to sales tax.

State of Colorado Disposable Bag Fee

Effective January 1, 2023

The state of Colorado will mandate a 10-cent fee for each disposable paper and plastic bag used at check-out.



10 cent fee for plastic bags



10 cent fee for paper bags

Effective January 1, 2024

The state of Colorado will prohibit the use of disposable plastic bags and Styrofoam. (Restaurants are exempt from the plastic bag ban.)



10 cent fee for paper bags



What type of bags does this fee apply to?

Single-use paper and disposable plastic bags that are provided to customers at the point of sale. The bags are used to carry the purchased items away from the establishment.

What types of bags are excluded from the fee?

- Bags used to contain or wrap frozen foods, meat, fish, flowers, potted plants, and other items where dampness may be a problem.
- Bags used to contain loose bulk items such as fruit, vegetables, nuts, chocolate, nails, screws etc.
- Bags used to contain unwrapped prepared foods and bakery goods.
- Bags used to contain medical prescriptions.

Who is required to charge the bag fee?

- Add 10-cent bag fee to your Point-of-Sale
- Groceries stores/supermarkets
- Convenience stores/liquor stores Clothing stores/dry cleaners
- Pharmacy/drug stores (excludes bags used to contain medical prescriptions)
- Other types of retail establishments

What do retailers need to know?

- The retailer retains 40% of the bag fee collected. The retailer remits 60% of the bag fee collected to the City on the disposable bag fee return.
- Bag fees are not subject to sales tax.
- Remit to the Finance Department quarterly at 95 West 1st Monte Vista, CO. 81144

