



Plastic Bag and Straw Ban

Ordinance 16-2021 **Effective April 22, 2022**

Information for Commercial Establishments

- Commercial establishments located within West Goshen Township are prohibited by Ordinance 16-2021 from distribution to customers of single-use carry-out plastic bags and single-use plastic straws that do not meet specific requirements.
- Affected by the ban are any business or retail establishment that sells perishable or nonperishable goods, including but not limited to, clothing, food, and personal items and that generates a sales or use tax.
- Businesses are strongly encouraged to post visible signage at their establishments by January 1, 2022, informing customers of the ban.
- For further details, see the reverse side of this flyer or scan the QR code below.



EXEMPTED BAGS	EXEMPTED STRAWS
<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ <i>Product bags</i>▪ <i>Newspaper bags</i>▪ <i>Food storage bags</i>▪ <i>Garbage bags</i>▪ <i>Pet waste bags</i>▪ <i>Compliant bags</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ <i>When packaged with beverages prepared outside the township with no alterations</i>▪ <i>When provided as an assistance device to accommodate a disability</i>



ALLOWED	
<p><i>Reusable bags made of nylon, cotton, cloth, polyester, woven plastic, or another material designed and manufactured for multiple reuses</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- <i>Minimum of 40% postconsumer recycled material.</i>- <i>Displays the words recyclable and/or reusable in a visible manner</i>- <i>Can be composted</i>



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When does the ban begin?

The ban will go into effect on April 22, 2022. Retailers should prepare to phase out banned bags beginning January 1, 2022.

How will it be enforced?

Any commercial establishment that violates this ban after April 22, 2022, will be issued an initial written warning, and a violation notice after that. For non-compliance following the initial warning and violation notice, fines of \$100, \$200, or \$500 will be levied for the first, second, and subsequent violations, respectively.

Who will be affected?

Commercial establishments in West Goshen Township that will be affected include business establishments that generate a sales or use tax like a drugstore, pharmacy, supermarket, grocery store, farmers market, convenience food store, food mart, or other commercial entity engaged in the retail sale of a limited line of goods that include milk, bread, soda and snack foods; a public eating establishment (i.e. a restaurant, take-out food, or any other business that prepares and sells prepared food to be eaten on or off its premises); and a business establishment that sells clothing, hardware, or any other nonperishable goods.

COMPLIANCE STRATEGIES

Following are steps you can take for readying your business for compliance with the ban before it goes into effect.

1. Consider Alternative Options

Businesses can still provide customers with an alternative bag (at a cost or for free) or have customers bring their own bags. Each business has unique needs and costs, and you should determine the best long-term option for your business, such as not offering a bag at all; paper or cardboard bags; woven or fabric bags; heavyweight reusable plastic bags; or a combination of any of the above.

2. Phase Out Existing Stock

Retailers should adjust their purchasing to deplete existing stock of non-compliant bags by the deadline. Check out this link for vendors that sell compliant bags: <https://bit.ly/3yF1u8Z>

3. Communicate with Customers

Train employees who interact with the public to tell customers about the ban and post notices at several spots within your establishment that are visible to customers. A copy of the ordinance can be obtained by visiting www.westgoshen.org and typing "Ord-No-16-2021" into the search field.

4. Attend Educational Sessions

West Goshen Township will present an educational presentation in spring 2022 to educate and prepare customers and business establishments for the ban and provide establishments with techniques on how to handle customer's questions and objections. Attendance is strongly recommended.

WGT will be providing a limited number of reusable bags to residents.

Subscribe to WGT's monthly newsletter to stay in the loop:

<https://bit.ly/3sej0Qa>

