



**From 1 January 2019
it's an offence for retailers
in Western Australia to supply
lightweight plastic bags.**

The ban applies to all retailers
including takeaway food outlets
and markets.



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WHY BAN BAGS?

- In 2017, we used approximately **670 million** lightweight plastic bags in Western Australia.
- About **7 million** bags ended up as litter in our rivers, beaches and farmland. The rest pile up in landfill lasting hundreds of years.
- The WA bag ban is an important step towards looking after our environment for future generations.

WHAT BAGS ARE BANNED?

The ban applies to **all lightweight plastic bags**, with a thickness of 35 microns or less, including degradable, biodegradable and compostable bags.

WHAT BAGS ARE ALLOWED?

Cardboard, paper, fabric and thick reusable plastic bags are allowed. Produce bags used for unpackaged foodstuffs are allowed.



IS THE BAN OPTIONAL?

No. The ban applies to all retailers, regardless of size, including food outlets and markets. Retailers who supply banned bags after 1 January could face a fine of \$5000. Please understand that retailers cannot provide you with a banned bag, regardless of whether it is new or recycled.

WHY ARE SOME STORES CHARGING FOR BAGS?

Alternative bags like paper, fabric and thick plastic are more expensive than lightweight plastic bags. Some retailers may incorporate the cost of bags into their products, while some may introduce an optional charge for these bags.

WHAT CAN I DO?

The easiest way to adjust to the bag ban is to remember to bring reusable bags with you every time you leave home.

Retailers of all sizes and types are sourcing new bags, changing equipment, and training their staff - and it may take some time for us all to adjust. Please be patient with retail staff.

FIND OUT MORE:

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