



WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT PLASTIC BAGS

Plastic bags are made from non-renewable fossil fuels

Plastic bags are extremely lightweight and can act like balloons blowing out of garbage trucks and landfills. They litter our communities, enter storm drains and eventually end up in the ocean, where they break into small toxic pieces. Marine life often become entangled in plastic bags and can mistake the plastic particles for food, causing great harm or death to the animals. Plastics are the most common form of litter found on local beaches!

FACTS AND FIGURES

\$300 million - The annual cost government agencies in California spend to pick up and dispose of litter.

Over 13 billion - The number of single-use plastic bags used in California each year.

5 - The percentage of single-use plastic bags that are recycled.

12 - The average number of minutes single-use plastic bags are used by consumers.

500 - The number of single-use bags the average American could avoid using each year by switching to reusable bags.

Laws and Ordinances on Single-use Plastic Bags

California Senate Bill (SB) 270 phases out single-use plastic grocery bags. Stores can sell reusable bags, or paper bags with a minimum \$0.10 charge. SB 270 was set to go into effect for large grocery stores, including Walmart and Target, and drug stores in [July 2015](#). In July 2016, the law was to expand to convenience stores and smaller grocery stores.

However, the plastic bag industry filed a referendum to overturn the statewide ban on single-use carryout bags, which has qualified for the ballot. *The fate of the law will be determined by the results of the General Election in November 2016.*

The referendum does not impact existing plastic bag ban ordinances in unincorporated LA County, City of Los Angeles, Monrovia, Pasadena, and South Pasadena. *There are 138 cities or counties statewide already covered by existing bag ban ordinances.*

Plastic Bags and Pet Waste

Plastic produce bags will still be available and you can use bags from bread, bulk products and cereal to pick up your pet waste.

**PLEASE REMEMBER
TO BRING YOUR REUSABLE BAGS WHEREVER YOU SHOP!**