

Which bags are permitted from 21 July 2022?

In 2020, the States Assembly made the decision to ban the sale of single-use carrier bags with the aim to reduce waste, increase reuse and set a minimum price for 'reusable carrier bags.'

Their aim was to encourage a 'bring your own bag' culture and help to change behaviour away from single use consumption and disposal.

This Law supports Jersey on its path to being a more sustainable place to live and work, and contributes to the carbon neutral agenda by reducing the global carbon

emissions associated with the production and transport of plastic bags.

On 21 July 2022, the Single Use Plastics etc. (Restrictions) (Jersey) Law 2021 will come into force. The Law applies to all traders in their interactions with both consumers and other businesses.

This factsheet explains the bags that are permitted, the bags that will be banned and the bags customers must pay for. More information is available from gov.je/singleuseplastics

PERMITTED BAGS

(with a minimum charge of 70p inclusive of GST (if applicable))

Reusable carrier bag - made of recyclable plastic or paper

a bag with or without a handle, made of recyclable plastic, with a wall thickness of 50 microns or above or made of recyclable paper to a weight of 170gsm or above

Please note: recyclable means that the bag can be recycled at the end of its useful life. The bag cannot contain materials that are not recyclable.

Please see gov.je/singleuseplastics for more information.

BANNED BAGS

Lightweight plastic

a bag with or without a handle, made of plastic with a wall thickness of 15 microns and above, but less than 50 microns

Very lightweight plastic

a bag with or without a handle, made of plastic with a wall thickness of less than 15 microns and not meeting the 'OK Compost HOME' (or equivalent) certification

Paper carrier bag

a bag with or without a handle, made of paper to a weight of 50gsm and above, but less than 170gsm

EXEMPT BAGS (Bags not covered by the Law)

✔ Very lightweight plastic bag

a bag with or without a handle, made of plastic with a wall thickness of less than 15 microns and meets the 'OK Compost HOME' (or equivalent) certification

✔ Paper 'counter' bag

a paper bag with or without a handle, less than 50gsm

✔ Integral product packaging

a bag that is an integral part of the packaging in which goods are sealed prior to sale

✔ Gift bag

a paper bag, with or without a handle, purchased for the intended purpose of gift wrapping only

✔ Other bags

bags used for storage and to contain waste such as bin liners, freezer bags, dog poo bags and nappy sacks. These bags must be sold for their intended purpose

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Industry exemptions

Bags that are used to contain the following are exempt from the Law:

- Uncooked fish and fish products
- Uncooked meat and meat products
- Prescription medicine or appliance
- Live fish or other aquatic creatures
- Goods in transit, such as at an airport, plane or ship

Existing bags

If you have a high volume of single use bags in stock, you can continue to use these after the Law comes into effect, but you may be asked to prove that the bags were delivered to you before 21 July 2022. The importation of the bags banned under the Single-Use Plastics etc. (Restrictions) (Jersey) Law 2021 after 21 July 2022 is an offence.

Could your business be bag free?

Encouraging customers to bring their own bag would mean that you do not have to supply bags and you could promote your business as 'bag free'.



Contact

Please visit gov.je/singleuseplastics for our information to help you prepare for the Law coming into force in on 21 July 2022.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Trading Standards Service:

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