

# Detailed guidance: reusable paper and plastic carrier 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. The Law will ban the supply of single-use carrier bags and set a minimum price for ‘reusable carrier bags.’

This factsheet provides technical guidance to explain the reusable paper and plastic carrier bags permitted under the new Law.

More information is available from:  
[gov.je/singleuseplastics](http://gov.je/singleuseplastics)

## Reusable bags: plastic and paper

If you provide reusable bags, these must be sold at a minimum charge of 70p inclusive of GST (if applicable) from 21 July 2022.

Reusable bags are defined as:




*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.

### 1) Reusable paper bag (made of recyclable paper to a weight of 170gsm or above)









#### Unacceptable:

-  Wet strength resin
-  Any contaminants such as textiles or plastic/glitter coatings on the bag
-  Lamination using any non-paper materials

#### Acceptable:

-  Minimal printing
-  White fibres with a printed coating
-  Textile handles - the need to remove these before recycling should be communicated to customers, preferably on the bag and at the point of purchase
-  Spot UV
-  Foiling
-  Gloss printing (no flexo ink)
-  Embossing
-  Debossing

#### Recommended:

-  Minimal printing using water based inks (no flexo ink)
-  Uncoated paper
-  No colour dyed fibres
-  FSC Certified
-  Includes a percentage of recycled paper content
-  Paper handles
-  Water based glues
-  Small amounts of glue
-  A ‘recycle me’ reminder printed on the bag

Paper bags can be recycled along with other paper. Brown paper bags should be recycled with cardboard.

## 2) Reusable plastic bag (made of recyclable plastic with a wall thickness of 50 microns or above)

Plastic bags must be made from a single grade of plastic, for example Grade 2 (HDPE) or Grade 4 (LDPE).

### Recommended:

- ✔ A lower number of plastic grade (i.e. Grade 2 is preferable to Grade 4)
- ✔ Minimised print (letters, logo and background colour)
- ✔ Avoid black coloured bags
- ✔ No metallic print
- ✔ No foiling

A centralised plastic bag recycling scheme is not yet available so we encourage you to find opportunities with your bag supplier or through an independent provider.

No bioplastics, biodegradable or compostable bags are permitted unless they meet the OK compost HOME certification or equivalent (this means the bag can be recycled using a home composting system).

## 3) Reusable bags made from other materials

Bags made from other materials such as cotton, canvas and jute are outside of the Law.

If you are considering these types of bags for your business, please carefully consider the shape, strength and capacity of the bag so that it is durable (long lasting and washable), functional (a good size and strength) and attractive to the customer (i.e. look, feel, comfortable to carry, etc.).



## Contact

Visit [gov.je/singleuseplastics](https://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:

T: 01534 448160

E: [singleuseplastics@gov.je](mailto:singleuseplastics@gov.je)

Additional information (including exemptions to the Law) available on [gov.je/singleuseplastics](https://gov.je/singleuseplastics)

