

Summary of the District's Carryout Bag Requirements (Chapter 10 of Title 21 of the DC Municipal Regulations)

These requirements apply to paper and plastic bags sold or distributed by businesses that sell food or alcohol in the District of Columbia:

- All **paper** and **plastic** disposable carryout bags provided must be one hundred percent (100%) recyclable.
- All **paper** and **plastic** disposable carryout bags are required to display in a highly visible manner the phrase "Please Recycle This Bag", or a substantially similar phrase.
 - The lettering of the recycling statement must appear on the exterior of either the front or back panel of the bag, and not on a gusset or the base of the bag.
 - The lettering of the phrase must be at least one half of an inch (0.5) in height or at least seventy-five percent (75%) of the width of the front panel of the bag.
- The lettering of the recycling statement must be in a boldface font.
- All disposable **paper** carryout bags must contain a minimum of forty percent (40%) post-consumer recycled content.
- All disposable **plastic** carryout bags must be made of high-density polyethylene film marked with the SPI resin identification code 2, or low-density polyethylene film marked with the SPI resin identification code 4.
- All disposable carryout bags need to meet the requirements of this section, even if the bag is biodegradable or compostable.
- A disposable carryout bag made of both **plastic and paper** are required to meet the paper carryout bag requirements for the paper components of the bag, and meet the plastic carryout requirements for the plastic components of the bag.
- Disposable carryout bags made of **plastic** that is not one hundred percent (100%) recyclable are illegal to sell or distribute, retail or wholesale, in the District.
- **Reusable carryout bags** are bags with handles that is specifically designed and manufactured for multiple reuse and is made of cloth, fiber, other machine-washable fabric, or durable plastic that is at least two and one-quarter millimeters (2.25 mm) thick.