

Sample newsletter article

Colorado's New Bag Fee Starts January 1, 2023

Starting Jan. 1, 2023, large stores in Colorado will begin charging a \$0.10 fee on plastic and paper checkout bags as part of a statewide mandate established by the [Plastic Pollution Reduction Act \(House Bill 21-1162\)](#), which was signed into law in July 2021.

Walmart, Target, King Soopers, Safeway, Walgreens, and other large retailers will be required to charge the \$0.10 bag fee only on plastic and paper checkout bags. Other types of bags, such as produce bags, bags used for food that could contaminate other items, and bags used for prescription medicine are not subject to the fee.

Not all stores will be required to charge the new bag fee, however. **Restaurants and small stores (including farmers markets and roadside stands) that operate solely in Colorado and have three or fewer locations are exempt.** Recipients of federal or state food assistance, such as EBT, SNAP, or WIC, are also exempt from paying the fee.

On average, people living in the US use an average of [365 bags per year](#). The new bag fee requirement is an effort to encourage customers to bring their own reusable shopping bags to stores, reducing consumption of single-use plastic bags. [Plastic bags are one of the most common pollutants in Colorado rivers](#) and can be lethal to birds, fish, and cattle that mistake plastics as food. Colorado cities that have previously adopted bag fees report a 70% or greater reduction of plastic bag use.

Of the bag fees collected, 40% will be kept by the retailer, which can be used to cover compliance costs (including providing reusable bags for free or for purchase, training employees, etc.). Municipalities will collect 60% of the fees to administer the program, provide education and outreach, or support recycling, compost, or waste diversion programs in the community.

Next time you head out to run errands, skip the fee by bringing your own reusable bags!

Learn more by viewing [Frequently Asked Questions](#) here.

