The City of Malibu

Bu's Business News

Shopping Bags

Together we can make a difference!

ORDINANCE 323

- Adopted May 27, 2008
- Effective June 27, 2008
- **What is a Plastic Bag?:** Any bag made from plastic provided by any commercial or retail establishment, vendor, or non-profit vendor to a customer at the point of sale for the purpose of carrying away goods. Reusable bags and produce/bulk bags are still allowed.
- **Plastic Bags Prohibited:** No Retail or Commercial Establishment, Restaurant, Vendor or Non-Profit Vendor shall provide Plastic Bags (as defined above) or Compostable Plastic Bags to customers within the City limits.
- **Compliance Dates:**

  Compliance dates are as follows:

  December 27, 2008
  Grocery Stores, Food Vendors, Restaurants, Pharmacies, and City facilities;

  June 27, 2009
  All remaining Retail and Commercial Establishments, Vendors and Non-Profit Vendors

We All Need to Help Reduce Litter

Plastic bags are not only ugly litter, but they are deadly to the marine wildlife that consumes them, mistaking them as food. These petroleum-based bags never go away, but break down into tiny pieces of toxic substance that contaminate our water and soil, entering the food chain. Every year approximately 6 billion plastic single-use shopping bags are used in Los Angeles County alone. This is equivalent to 600 bags per person per year!

Less than 5% of plastic bags generated in the County are recycled. This low rate is mostly due to the lack of facilities needed to recycle them and lack of people's participation in recycling programs. Approximately 45,000 tons of plastic carryout bags are thrown away by LA County residents annually. That's the weight of approximately 45,000 compact cars and equates to about 0.4 % of the 12 million tons of solid waste disposed of each year from Los Angeles County.

Re-Usable Bags– A Better Idea

The answer is "Neither Paper Nor Plastic". Reusable bags are a better option. Most are recyclable, lightweight, durable, washable, and can carry three to four times the amount of weight than that of a single-use bag. Making a conscious effort to use reusable bags in lieu of single-use bags is ecologically and economically beneficial. Using reusable bags conserves energy and natural resources, reduces waste in landfills, diminishes litter, and promotes a cleaner environment.

Why Reusable Bags?

Benefits:

- Decrease negative impacts on the marine environment
- Conserve natural resources
- Eliminate plastic bags littering neighborhoods
- Save taxpayers' money- less money needs to be spent on prevention and cleanup from plastic bag litter
- Reduce air and water pollution from plastic bag manufacturing
- Reduce waste generated overall
- Reduce retailers' costs to purchase bags– affecting consumer prices
- Assist in the development of "green economy" by supporting greener and reusable products
- Save trees- 10 billion paper bags were used in the U.S in 1999. That's wasting a lot of trees!
- Reduce overall oil consumed in the manufacture of new plastic products

More Information

Ordinance 323 Banning Plastic Shopping Bags in the City of Malibu is available on the City's website at www.malibucity.org. This ordinance is codified in the City of Malibu Municipal Code as Chapter 9.28. You may also request a copy from the City Clerk at (310) 456-2489.

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REUSABLE

Re-usable Bag Vendors

www.chicobag.com

www.earthwisebags.com

www.ecobags.com

www.envirosax.com

www.mytote.com

www.onebagatatime.com

www.papernorplastic.com

www.reuseit.com

www.l-bag.com (bulk/produce bags)

Additional Information:

City of Malibu

Environmental Sustainability Department

www.malibucity.org

Heal the Bay– Annual Day Without a Bag

www.healthebay.org/nobagday

Algalita Marine Research Foundation

www.algalita.org

Resources for Living More Sustainably

Sustainable at Home

Green Home: Environmental Store
(877) 282-6400
www.greenhome.com

Preserve Everyday: Recycled Products and Info
(888) 354-7296
www.recycline.com

Shop Organic: Fair-Trade and Eco-Friendly Products
(520) 792-0804
www.shoporganic.com

Sustainable Business

Business.Gov: Green Business Guide
www.business.gov/guides/environment

GreenLine: Green Office Supply
(800) 641-1117
www.greenlinepaper.com

Nature Friendly Products: Biodegradable Products
(800) 321-4804 ext 105
www.nfpco.com

Weisenbach Specialty Printing: Environmentally Preferable Products and Promotions
(800) 778-5420
www.recycledproducts.com

Simply Biodegradable: Biodegradable Products
(509) 764-0233
www.simplybiodegradable.com

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