



CITY OF ORANGE

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

www.cityoforange.org

PHONE: (714) 744-2200 • FAX: (714) 744-5523

Plastic Bags Now Banned at Store Checkout

Dear Residents and Businesses,

This letter is being sent as notification of a new state law, [Senate Bill \(SB\) 1053](#), that is now in place effective January 1, 2026. This law amends a 2014 law and no longer allows grocery, convenience stores and retailers who sell food products to provide any type of plastic bags at check stands.

Only paper bags made from at least 50% recycled content are now offered for sale/distribution at check stands; plastic bags are no longer available. Of course all city residents are always encouraged to bring their own, reusable bag when shopping at any of our stores in the city.

A couple of commonly asked questions:

- **Does the law include bioplastic bags used for produce etc.?** No, these bags will still be available to customers in the produce department.
- **If I forget my reusable bag, how much will I be charged for a paper bag?** The charge will be 10 cents, which is exactly the same as the cost of the previously offered plastic bag.

Thank you for your attention and support for state laws that reduce plastic pollution in our City.

Daniel R. Slater, Mayor
City of Orange



CITY OF ORANGE

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

www.cityoforange.org

PHONE: (714) 744-2200 • FAX: (714) 744-5523

Reducing Waste and Plastic - Compliance Needed on Existing State Laws

The City of Orange is sending this letter as a friendly reminder to all food facilities of two existing state laws which focus on reducing waste and pollution from single-use plastic items. The City and the community created Orange Sustainability Group thank you for doing your part to comply with them.

1. Skip the Stuff State Law (Assembly Bill 1276)

The City of Orange is asking all food facilities for your full compliance with an existing California state law, [Assembly Bill \(AB\) 1276](#), which has been in effect since June 2022. This law is also known as the “Skip the Stuff” law. It states that all food facilities such as: restaurants, cafés, mobile vendors, and similar businesses (full definition of a food facility [here](#)) as well as third-party food delivery services, may not give out single-use foodware accessories (i.e.; utensils, chopsticks, straws, stirrers etc.) or single-use condiments (i.e.; relishes, sauces, salsa, ketchup etc.), **unless each specific item is requested by the customer**. Single-use items cannot be bundled together - this violates the law. Self-serve stations are allowed as long as items are not bundled or wrapped and dispensers only dispense items one at a time.

Here are some commonly asked questions about this law:

- **Are there any visuals restaurants can provide to customers and staff for awareness and compliance training?** Yes! Please feel free to [use this poster](#) to ensure both your customers and staff understand and comply with the law.
- **What about drive-through customers?** Servers waiting on drive-through customers may ask if the customer needs specific single-use accessories or specific condiments, but they may not place any single-use items in the bag without the customer’s consent.
- **Are there any types of food facilities exempt from this requirement?** Yes, this law exempts Correctional Institutions, Licensed Health Care Facilities, Residential Care Facilities, and Public and Private School Cafeterias.
- **What happens if my restaurant is not in compliance?** If a restaurant is observed out of compliance during an OCHCA Environmental Health inspection, a first violation will be documented on the inspection report. If a restaurant is

found to be non-compliant after a second violation, the restaurant is subject to a fine of twenty-five dollars (\$25) for each day in violation, not to exceed three-hundred dollars (\$300) annually. For additional information, [refer to this document at OCHCA Environmental Health](#).

2. Expanded Polystyrene (EPS) Law, Senate Bill 54

Expanded Polystyrene (also known as plastic foam or styrofoam) which is used by some restaurants and food vendors to serve food and beverage was officially [banned for sale in California via Senate Bill \(SB\) 54](#) on January 1, 2025. The polystyrene foam producers failed to meet the state's requirement to demonstrate a 25% recycling rate for the material by January 1, 2025. As a result, polystyrene foam food serviceware (i.e., cups, bowls, containers, plates etc.) may not be sold, offered for sale, distributed or imported into the state. The [Attorney General's enforcement advisory](#) in December reiterates the law is now in place and violators may face substantial penalties for noncompliance.

Plastic foam is known to be [one of the worst forms of single use plastic pollution](#) and, while there are still some stores in our county and city selling their inventory of plastic foam products, we are alerting all food facilities still using plastic foam to serve food and beverage about this statewide ban. Please make a plan to switch to alternative, more sustainable food serving products, ideally non-plastic items like compostable fiber or paper, as quickly as possible.

Note: this ban applies only to products used to serve food & beverage and does not apply to plastic foam used for pre-packaged food in grocery stores and does not prohibit plastic foam blocks used for packaging. For more information on the foam ban, go to [CalRecycle's EPS page](#).

The City thanks you for your attention and compliance with both of these important state laws to reduce plastic pollution in our city.

Sincerely,



Daniel R. Slater
Mayor, City of Orange