



Highland Park “Bring Your Own Bag” Ordinance

Answers to Customers’ FAQ

1. *May-October 31: Why am I being charged \$0.10 per plastic bag I am taking?*

- Plastic is in our oceans and rivers, it effects our marine life and it spills into our human food chain. To address the problem, Highland Park’s Borough Council passed an ordinance in February to phase out the use of plastic bags. Starting in November plastic won’t be available.
- The Borough is trying to encourage everyone to get in the habit of bringing their own bags.

2. *November 1: Why am I being charged \$0.10 per paper bag I am taking?*

- Plastic isn’t alone in its negative impacts on the environment. The process of manufacturing and shipping paper bags takes a toll on the environment too.
- The Borough is trying to encourage everyone to get in the habit of bringing their own bags.

3. *Who keeps the \$0.10 and what do they do with it?*

- Our store is allowed to keep the \$0.10 to offset the cost of implementing this ordinance.

4. *Isn’t this ordinance unfair to customers who can’t afford \$0.10 per bag?*

- Anyone who receives any type of federal, state or local public assistance is exempt from the \$0.10 per bag fee.
 - o *CASHIER: If you see a customer paying with EBT cards, WIC checks or other payments associated with public assistance, waive the bag fee during checkout. You should not explicitly ask customers if they receive public assistance.*

5. *I bring reusable bags every time and only forgot them today. Can you waive the fee?*

- Unfortunately, we can’t.
 - o *CASHIER: If it’s between May – October 31, you may offer the customer a recyclable paper bag at no cost (only if your store has chosen to provide them). Starting in November a \$0.10 fee will be placed on paper bags and no plastic will be permitted.*

6. *Are any plastic bags allowed anymore?*

- There are some permitted uses, including laundry bags and newspaper bags. Also any plastic bags used to hold bulk produce, baked goods, meats and fish are also permissible.
- You are allowed to bring your own plastic bag.