

Bring Your Bag and Fight Litter

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Montgomery County's Carryout Bag Law: The Basics for Residents

Starting January 1, 2012, all retail establishments in Montgomery County that sell goods and provide their customers a carryout bag (either paper or plastic) are required to charge 5 cents per bag.

Retail establishments include all stores, permanent booths, service stations, grocery stores, department stores, specialty goods sellers, convenience stores, restaurants and others.

- Montgomery County's new Carryout Bag Law is **designed to improve our environment** by cutting down plastic bags—a significant source of litter—which pollute our streets, streams, and playgrounds, and harm property values.
- A similar program has been in effect in Washington DC for the past 18 months and has already **reduced plastic bag litter that clogs the rivers and streams** in Washington DC by an estimated 65 percent.
- Proceeds from the Carryout Bag Law go exclusively to **programs that fight litter and provide stormwater pollution control** in Montgomery County.
- **Residents can avoid the charge for carryout bags** by bringing their own bags to carry purchases out of the store.
- **The 5-cent charge also applies** to purchases made over the phone/Internet/fax, or at a self-checkout counter, if you are using store-provided carryout bags.
- **Some bags are exempt from the Carryout Bag Law.** Examples include bags used to package bulk or perishable items, prescription drugs, as well as paper bags from restaurants and delis for customers to carry out prepared or left-over food.

For More Information:
visit montgomerycountymd.gov/bag
or call 311