

# MONTGOMERY COUNTY'S CARRYOUT BAG LAW

## HOW IT WORKS –

- All retail establishments in Montgomery County who provide customers a carryout bag (either paper or plastic) at the point of sale are required to charge 5 cents per bag.
- The law also applies to purchases by phone, internet, or fax that are delivered in a carryout bag provided by the store.
- Customers CANNOT be charged if they use their own bag for their purchases.

## WHY A BAG LAW?

- Plastic bags are a significant source of litter in our community which pollutes our neighborhoods, streams, and playgrounds.
- The Carryout Bag Law is in place to reduce the use of disposable bags and the costs incurred with removing them from the environment.
- Fees from the Carryout Bag Law exclusively fund programs that fight litter and provide stormwater pollution control in Montgomery County.

## WHO IS INCLUDED?

All retail establishments including:

- Convenience stores
- Service stations
- Supermarkets
- Department stores
- Permanent booths/kiosks
- Any sales outlet where a customer can buy goods

## Retailers: What You Need To Know

### WHAT SHOULD RETAILERS DO?

- Document on every customer's receipt the number of carryout bags provided and the total amount charged for the bags.
- May not provide a store credit to cover the bag tax amount.
- Retain 1 cent out of every 5 cents collected per bag.
- Work with the Montgomery County Finance Department to report the bags provided to customers and remit the appropriate charges.

### EXEMPTIONS: Some bags are exempt; examples include bags used for -

- Packaging bulk or perishable items
- Prescription drugs
- Paper bags used for prepared or left-over food from restaurants and delis; *only paper bags are exempt.*

## MORE INFO

- Visit our website at [montgomerycountymd.gov/bag](http://montgomerycountymd.gov/bag) or call 311



DEPARTMENT OF  
**ENVIRONMENTAL  
PROTECTION**