

NEW



IMPORTANT NOTICE FOR RETAIL BUSINESSES IN MONTGOMERY COUNTY

“BRING YOUR OWN BAG” LAW



SCAN TO LEARN MORE

Effective January 1, 2026

Montgomery County passed a new law that affects how your business may provide carryout bags to customers. Please review the following information carefully to ensure your business is in compliance.



WHAT THE LAW DOES

The Bring Your Own Bag Law:

- Increases the paper bag tax to 10 cents per bag (of which the retailer gets to keep 5 cents)
- Bans plastic carryout bags starting January 1, 2026, except in some municipalities (for more information visit montgomerycountymd.gov/bag/retailers.html)
- Requires quarterly tax reporting and remittance of paper bag sales

WHO THE LAW APPLIES TO

Applicable If:

- You operate a retail business or restaurant in Montgomery County
- Offer disposable bags (plastic or paper)

KEY LAW EXEMPTIONS

Exemptions to Know:

- Customers paying with SNAP/WIC benefits (no bag fee)
- Restaurants providing prepared/leftover food, takeout, and drive-through (no bag fee)
- Bulk or perishable items like produce, meat, and fish
- For a complete list of exemptions visit montgomerycountymd.gov/bag/retailers.html

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WHAT YOU **MUST DO**

By January 1, 2026, Montgomery County Businesses Must:

- Charge 10 cents for each carryout bag provided at checkout
- Register your business at montgomerycountymd.gov/bag/retailers.html
- Stop distributing plastic carryout bags to customers (except in those municipalities where this is still permitted)
- File quarterly tax reports remitting 5 cents per bag to Montgomery County (the business may retain the other 5 cents)

PENALTIES FOR NON-COMPLIANCE

Compliance Enforcement:

- Failure to comply may result in fines after a written notice and 7-day correction period
- Montgomery County Department of Environmental Protection will work with you to avoid penalties and help correct any issues!

WHY THIS MATTERS

Environmental Benefits:

- Revenue from the bag tax supports the County's Water Quality Protection and anti-litter initiatives
- This law is part of a broader effort to reduce waste and protect the environment



**THANK YOU FOR HELPING MAKE
MONTGOMERY COUNTY CLEANER
AND MORE SUSTAINABLE.**



**WE'RE HERE TO
SUPPORT YOU.**



Questions?

montgomerycountymd.gov/bag/retailers.html
for FAQs, exemptions, resources, and reporting guidance