



Disposable Bag Fee FAQs

Updated February 8, 2022

NOTICE: *On November 10, 2020, the Town Council adopted a revised disposable bag fee ordinance to further discourage the use of disposable bags and to eliminate plastic bags from retail and restaurant establishments by a certain date. This aligns with the SustainableBreck goals to reduce 40% of the town's waste stream.*

Who must comply with the new ordinance? All businesses in the Town of Breckenridge who offer disposable bags (paper or plastic) to patrons and guests including but not limited to retail, restaurants, cafes, grocers, liquor stores, marijuana dispensaries, and jewelers.

What bags incur the 10 cent disposable bag fee? All bags (paper and plastic) that do not meet the exempt criteria listed in the ordinance and Administrative Rules must be charged a 10 cent fee. *Beginning September 1, 2021 all paper bags are required to contain a minimum of 40 post-consumer recycled material.*

When are plastic bags banned? Beginning September 1, 2021, plastic bags will no longer be allowed in Breckenridge. If your business currently carries plastic bags, please plan any future bag orders so that your inventory of plastic bags runs out by this date.

What bags are exempt from the fee? Exemptions can be found listed in the ordinance and Administrative Rules. These include bags used for food safety (produce bags, meat bags, frozen foods), bulk items (granolas, nuts, candy), and bags under 100 square inches in size for loose retail items (jewelry, marijuana, beads, spices, etc). The exemption for plastic bags exceeding 2.25 millimeters in thickness has been eliminated beginning September 1, 2021.

How do I register my exempt bags? If you have bags that you believe are exempt under the new code, please submit an image of the bag and a copy of a recent invoice/spec sheet to sustainablebreck@townofbreckenridge.com.

If I'm a vendor at a Farmer's Market or Art Fair, do I need to comply with the disposable bag fee? Yes. Vendors can apply for the same exemptions outlined above and detailed in the ordinance and Administrative Rules.

If I'm a restaurant, what do I need to know? Restaurants are not required to collect the bag fee, but a restaurant must comply with the definition of disposable bags. After September 1, 2021, no restaurant can offer plastic bags and all paper carry out bags must contain 40 percent recycled content.

How do I remit my bag fees to the Town? Visit <https://www.townofbreckenridge.com/your-government/departments-services/finance-and-municipal-services/how-to-remit-bag-fees>

Are there reusable bags available for resale at my store? The Town of Breckenridge uses part of the revenue of the disposable bag fee to purchase Breckenridge reusable bags for the public. These bags are highly sought after memorabilia as well as functional reusable bags. Retail stores can purchase bags



from the Town for \$1.05 per bag and resell them to customers for up to \$1.15 per bag. Participating locations are listed on the sustainablebreck.com website. [Click here to order bags.](#)

Do I need to post signage in my business? Yes. The Town has branded signage explaining the bag fee in English and Spanish that is available free of charge found [here](#). Stores are also welcome to make their own signs. Signs are required at point of sale locations.

Can I keep a portion of the disposable bag fee? Stores can keep up to \$100 per month of bag fees to go toward administration, employee training, public information, and programs to reduce the use of disposable bags in Breckenridge.

What are the disposable bag fee revenues spent on? The Bag Fund is a special fund where revenues collected from the disposable bag fee pay for administration and enforcement of the program, public education, waste reduction, marketing, and other targeted strategies related to disposable bag use.

What are the penalties for not remitting my bag fee? The first and second violation of this code within two years will result in an infraction with a maximum penalty of \$500 per infraction. A third violation within two years will result in a misdemeanor.

What are the penalties for carrying bags that are not exempt? The penalty for carrying unlawful bags is a misdemeanor offense.

Other questions? If you have other questions regarding the new disposable bag ordinance, please contact Jessie Burley at sustainablebreck@townofbreckenridge.com or by calling 970-547-3110.