



November 15, 2017

Ipswich

goes Plastic Bag & Styrofoam-free!

BRING YOUR OWN BAGS

On November 15th, the bylaws eliminating single-use plastic bags and Styrofoam containers take effect. These bylaws were proposed by Ipswich High School Sustainability Students and passed at town meeting.

- Eliminating the use of these plastics in Ipswich will reduce waste, curb litter and have a positive impact on the cost of cleanup and disposal.
- Massachusetts residents use more than 2 billion plastic bags every year - which equates to one disposable bag for each person every day.
- Single-use plastic bags are a threat to the environmental health of our coastal community. Birds and marine animals get entangled in them or ingest them. The bags clog our storm drains and burden our solid waste collection and recycling facility.
- Styrofoam releases toxic chemicals that may be carcinogenic. And because these containers aren't biodegradable, they burden landfills that are already short on space.

Visit IpswichRecycles.org to learn more about the bylaws, what is and isn't included in them and how Ipswich's switch to plastic-free will benefit our community.

FAQs

- **How do these bans affect Ipswich residents?**
Ipswich vendors are required to follow these regulations by providing alternatives to the banned item and are allowed to charge a nominal fee for them. Residents are encouraged to bring their own reusable bags when shopping.
- **What items are covered by the plastic-bag ban?**
Single-use, thin-film plastic bags with integral handles
- **What items are exempt?**
Plastic bags used to contain dry cleaning, newspapers, produce, meat, bulk foods, wet items or similar merchandise, typically without handles, are exempt.
- **What items are covered by the foam ban?**
Disposable food service containers used for serving or transporting prepared, ready-to-eat food or beverages, including but not limited to takeout foods or leftovers from partially consumed meals prepared by a food establishment.
- **What items are exempt from this foam ban?**
Foam containers or trays for raw, uncooked meat, fish or eggs, unless provided for consumption without further food preparation, are exempt.



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