



Alameda County Waste Management Authority

## Reusable Bag Ordinance

***Bring your own bag – not just for grocery stores beginning May 1***

By now you're probably used to bringing your own bags to grocery, drug and liquor stores in Alameda County. These stores have been covered by a reusable bag law since January 2013, which has significantly reduced the number of single-use plastic and paper bags distributed at checkout. To build on this success, the law is being expanded to include *all* stores and restaurants in the county, starting May 1, 2017 for retail stores and November 1, 2017 for restaurants and food trucks.

Stores will be charging at least 10 cents for paper or reusable (including thick plastic) bags. Restaurants can provide paper bags for free or charge at least 10 cents for reusable bags. The law only applies to carryout bags, not to bags without handles that are used to protect merchandise, such as produce, soups or meat.

The Reusable Bag Ordinance for Alameda County was adopted by the Alameda County Waste Management Authority and is designed to reduce waste and litter, and keep plastic bags out of the local waterways. More information is available at [www.ReusableBagsAC.org](http://www.ReusableBagsAC.org).