
GUIDELINES FACTSHEET FOR RETAILERS

DISPOSABLE PLASTIC BAG TAX (*Chapter 70, Article XVI of the Fredericksburg Municipal Code*)



On **January 1, 2022**, certain retail stores in the City of Fredericksburg, as defined by Virginia Code § 58.1-1745, were required to charge \$0.05 per disposable plastic bag provided to customers at checkout.

The Virginia Disposable Plastic Bag Tax is meant to address the impacts and costs of disposable plastic bags in the community and encourage the use of reusable bags. For ordinance specific provisions, please reference [Guidelines for The Virginia Disposable Plastic Bag Tax](#).

Please review the guidelines factsheet to ensure your store, employees, and customers are staying in compliance with, the Virginia Disposable Plastic Bag Tax.

- Visit FredericksburgVA.gov/BringYourOwnBag** to review the Disposable Plastic Bag Tax and the free retailer toolkit.
- Adjust your registers** to track and charge for each disposable bag (plastic, paper, or other material) provided at checkout. The Disposable Plastic Bag Tax requires that customer receipts include the number of disposable bags provided and the total amount of taxes charged for each bag type.
- Know which bags are exempt** from the disposable bag tax, including thin plastic bags provided for bagging produce or meat, prescriptions, and prepackaged plastic bags.
- Alert your customers:**
 - Post signs reminding customers to bring their own bags on store doors, at checkout, and in the cart corral or parking lot. Visit FredericksburgVA.gov/BringYourOwnBag for printable signs.
 - Provide bag tax information to customers online and through print communications, such as weekly coupon mailers.
 - Make daily in-store announcements.
 - Verbally thank customers for bringing their own bags.
- Educate your employees:**
 - Train cashiers and baggers on the Disposable Plastic Bag Tax.
 - Designate a Disposable Plastic Bag Tax expert and employee trainer on your team to handle questions and train new cashiers and baggers as needed.
 - Provide managers and cashiers with the Virginia Disposable Plastic Bag Tax reference sheet that can be found at FredericksburgVA.gov/BringYourOwnBag and hang it in the employee-only areas of the store.
 - Acknowledge employees who consistently make the effort to thank customers for bringing their own bags.
- If planning to provide reusable bags to customers**, place reusable bags near checkout.
- Report monthly the number of disposable bags** provided to customers per the [Guidelines for The Virginia Disposable Plastic Bag Tax](#).