



## Reusable Shopping Bags

Reusable bags help reduce litter and waste, protect creeks and the Bay, and save money for cities by minimizing litter clean-up costs.

Grocery stores, supermarkets, convenience stores, liquor stores, drug stores or other entities that sell milk, bread, soda and snack foods and/or alcohol in Alameda County can no longer provide single-use plastic carryout bags at checkout.

- Affected stores must charge a minimum of \$0.10 per bag for each paper bags or reusable bags.
- Consumers may bring any type of bag to a store for their purchases, and are encouraged to do so.
- The ordinance does not regulate use of single-use bags used to protect and transport produce, bulk food or meat from within a store to the checkout or cash register.

### Since the implementation of the Ordinance, survey data from 70 stores shows:

- An 80% decline in the use of single use paper and plastic bags.
- A 200% increase in the number of shoppers bringing reusable bags, or not using a bag at all
- 44% decrease in plastic bags found in County storm drains
- Stores are participating with a compliance rate of 90+%

Source: [www.StopWaste.org](http://www.StopWaste.org)

### We Want Our Service to Be The Best and You Can Help



Please place your carts at the curb edge with at least 3 feet of clearance from other objects, including other carts, basketball hoops and motor vehicles.



### Tips to Remember Your Reusable Bag

- Put coupons in your bag and keep it by the door.
- Hang a few reusable bags on the coat rack or door knob.
- Keep reusable bags in the back seat of your car.
- Keep compact reusable bags in a purse, pocket or backpack.

### Cleaning reusable bags

It's a good idea to regularly clean your reusable bags. Below are some common-sense tips on how to keep your reusable bags clean and safe.

- Regularly clean your bags. Most fabric bags can be washed in the washing machine. For bags made from plastic material, soak in a basin filled with soapy water and either the juice of half a lemon or about a quarter cup of vinegar.
- Air out bags air so moisture evaporates.
- Designate specific bags for meats and fish.



### What Do I Put Into the Organics Cart?

The reason Organics Carts are so important is that using them helps divert materials away from our landfills which is better for the environment. Here is a list to help you use your cart efficiently. Thank you for helping us provide you with the best possible service.

#### Organics Acceptable List

- Grass and weed clippings
- Shrubs and tree prunings (less than 4" in diameter)
- Leaves, plants and flowers
- Food scraps and food soiled paper products

#### Non-acceptable Organics List

- No household garbage
- **No plastic bags**
- No dirt or rocks
- No overloading - lid must be closed

# Reduce Packaging Waste



Packaging accounts for nearly a third of municipal solid waste in the United States, according to the U.S. EPA. Items including cardboard boxes, fiberboard, all types of plastic, metal and glass containers, and foam perform the key functions of protecting products and providing information for buyers, but are often discarded after a limited time. Some packaging items, especially food ware such as cups, lids, straws, utensils, takeout containers, and bags, often end up as litter where they pollute marine environments, and persist in the environment and in living organisms for much longer than they are in use. Introducing a few simple practices into your lifestyle will improve your packaging footprint and might even save you some money.

## Tips for Reducing Packaging Waste:

- Carry your own reusable bag, water bottle, coffee cup, straw and utensils.
- Buy in bulk. This will save you money on top of reducing packaging waste.
- Buy loose products, such as fruits and vegetables, instead of pre-packaged packs.
- When comparing similar items from two brands, choose the one with less packaging.
- Reuse packaging products, like paper and plastic bags, tins and wrapping paper whenever possible. •When you do have packaging, look for the [How2Recycle Label](#), which is a standardized labeling system with clear recycling instructions.
- Find alternatives to buying a new product. [Craigslist](#), [Nextdoor](#) and [Facebook Marketplace](#) all offer plenty of used goods in your neighborhood, and you can also check [Freecycle](#) to see if the item is available for free from a neighbor.

Source: [www.StopWaste.org](http://www.StopWaste.org)



## SUMMERTIME FIRE SAFETY TIPS

Setting up your grill with charcoals and grilling all your favorite foods is a great part of summer barbecues. Please, be very careful when disposing your burnt charcoal, because it can be very deceiving. Although the ashes can seem gray and cold, a little ember can be hidden inside and last for days which will cause a fire. A fail-safe idea is scoop your ashes into tin foil and add a little water. If you hear a sizzling noise, that is the little ember we were telling you about.



The next sort of trash cart fire can be caused by accidentally disposing of "Household Hazardous Waste" in your trash cart. Some chemicals can be inert on their own, but when mixed with others they can create a chemical reaction that causes heat which starts a fire. Therefore, state law demands that all chemicals must be taken to your local Hazardous Waste Facility and not be put in your trash cart.

We give you these two very important tips because we don't want you to have a melted trash cart, but most importantly, we do not want a burning trash cart to spread to your home endangering you or your family. Have a safe and happy summer.

**In the spirit of conservation we are providing our newsletter online, but please feel free to print it out.**