



TOWN OFFICE BUILDING
90 SOUTH MAIN STREET

BOARD OF HEALTH

SHARON, MASSACHUSETTS 02067

TEL. (781) 784-1500 x1206
Website: www.townofsharon.net

Sharon's Plastic Bag Ban

Are you ready?

Dear Sharon Business Owner:

The purpose of this Bylaw is to protect the Town of Sharon's natural beauty and irreplaceable natural resources by reducing the number of single-use plastic check-out bags that are distributed and used in the Town, and by promoting the use of reusable bags.

*The Town of Sharon's plastic bag ban bylaw passed at the Annual Town Meeting May 6, 2019 and was approved by the Attorney General on July 22, 2019. Implementation of the ban is set to take effect in two stages. For Retail Establishments with greater than 3,500 square feet the bylaw will take effect **January 22, 2020**. For Retail Establishments with less than 3,500 square feet, the ban will take effect on **July 22, 2020**.*

The bylaw states that any "check-out bags" provided by retailers to customers must be a reusable check-out bag or a recyclable paper bag. Paper bags must be 100% recyclable and made with at least 40% post-consumer recycled material and the bag must be labeled with this information to comply with the bylaw. A copy of the Bylaw is included with this notification along with a list of frequently asked questions and a vendor supply list for the purchase of approved bags.

This ban applies to all retail establishments that sell goods or materials directly to a consumer, whether for or not for profit, including but not limited to retail stores, restaurants, pharmacies, convenience and grocery stores, liquor stores, or seasonal and temporary businesses.

The bylaw does allow for a retailer to apply to the Town for a temporary exemption (up to 6 months) from compliance due to an "undue hardship," such as the need for additional time to draw down an existing inventory of single-use plastic checkout bags that are prohibited by the bylaw. If you would like to apply for a onetime 6-month waiver to the plastic bag ban, please complete the attached waiver form and return to: Sharon Health Department, 90 South Main Street, Sharon, MA 02067

We would be glad to answer any questions you may have about the bylaw requirements and we look forward to working with you to build a more sustainable future for our community. We can be reached at 781.784.1500 extension 1206.

Sincerely,

Sheila Miller, PHN, BNS

cc: Board of Health

Encl: Bylaw, FAQ's, Vendor Supply, Temp Exemption Form