



Borough of Caldwell

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Effective May 4, 2022 Businesses will be banned from handing out single-use plastic bags, polystyrene food containers and paper bags in New Jersey. The measure, which was [signed into law in late 2020](#), is seen as the [strictest stance against single-use plastics in the nation](#).

The bans apply to a variety of businesses, including restaurants, convenience stores, food trucks, movie theaters and grocery stores that are 2,500 square feet or larger.

Grocery stores will also be prohibited from giving paper bags to customers.

There are exemptions for some disposable items, including:

- Bags wrapping raw meat
- Polystyrene butcher trays
- Bags used for loose items like produce
- Bags that hold fish and insects from pet stores
- Dry cleaning bags
- Newspaper bags
- Bags carrying prescription drugs

The law also restricts food-service businesses from handing out plastic straws, unless specifically requested by a customer. That restriction began in November.

For businesses that break these rules, the law allows for a warning for the first violation, a \$1,000 fine for the second violation and \$5,000 fines for the third violation and every violation after that. All fines collected would go to Clean Communities Program Fund, which pays for litter clean-up grants across New Jersey.

Takes effect: May 4,2022