New Jersey's Plastic Pollution Reduction Law Begins May, 2022

What bags are banned?

All single-use plastic carryout bags, like those found at restaurants, grocery and retail stores are banned. Single-use paper carryout bags are banned in grocery stores over 2500 square feet.

What bags are allowed?

The ban will not apply to the following bags:

- Reusable plastic carryout bags with stitched handles that can be used and cleaned multiple times
- Newspaper bags
- Laundry/dry cleaning bags
- Bags sold in packages intended for use as garbage, pet waste, or yard waste bags
- Bags used to wrap frozen food, meat, vegetables, and bulk items
- Bags provided by pharmacy to carry prescription drugs

Why are bags a problem?

- Plastic bags are typically used for less than 12 minutes before they are discarded. NJ residents use 4.4 BILLION plastic bags annually.
- Plastics in our natural environment are nearly impossible to remove and cause the death of wildlife and marine animals.
- Plastic litter accumulates in landfills, waterways and neighborhoods. Blockage of storm drains can lead to localized flooding.
- Paper bags require a large amount of wood, water, energy and chemicals to make and recycle producing a negative environmental footprint.

What bags are best?

Reusable! Bring your own!