

# IT'S TIME TO GIVE PLASTIC BAGS THE FLICK!

From 1 November 2013 all Tasmanian retailers are banned from providing non-biodegradable lightweight plastic shopping bags to customers.

The plastic bag ban is being introduced by the State Government.

**Thank you – you are at the frontline and may receive enquiries from customers.**



Say Goodbye to  
Plastic Shopping Bags

## Here are some tips for chatting to customers about the ban on plastic bags:

### Suggest to customers:

- They bring their own reusable bags
- The option of buying alternative bags if they forget their reusable bags
- They store their green bags in the car and a few compact bags in their handbag/backpack

### Remind customers that they can:

- Still use thicker bags, biodegradable bags and green bags. The information overleaf will help customers understand which bags are allowed
- Recycle plastic bags at recycling bins at major supermarkets
- Purchase alternative bin liners or go to [www.plasticbags.tas.gov.au](http://www.plasticbags.tas.gov.au) for bin liner advice

### Remember you have the right to:

- Refuse to overfill bags as this is a work health and safety risk
- Refuse to fill dirty bags, they are a health hazard to the customer, and you and your shop

Provide customers with a flyer and direct them to [www.plasticbags.tas.gov.au](http://www.plasticbags.tas.gov.au)

## WHICH PLASTIC BAGS ARE RESTRICTED?



### **Lightweight plastic shopping bags**

The retail supply of non-biodegradable lightweight plastic shopping bags (including bags labelled as 'degradable') less than 35 microns in thickness.

## WHICH BAGS ARE ALLOWED?



### **Reusable plastic bags**

Remember to take your reusable bags with you every time you shop. Keep them clean so retail workers can fill them.



### **Heavier retail plastic bags**

These sturdier plastic bags are typically used by clothing and department stores and can be reused.



### **Compostable biodegradable plastic bags (AS4736 compliant)**

Bags compliant with Australian Standard AS4736 will break down into compost in a commercial composting environment.



### **Plastic packing bags**

Barrier bags used for fruit and vegetables, and product packaging, are important for hygiene.



### **Paper bags and bags made of natural fibres**

Paper bags are reusable and can be easily recycled. Hessian, hemp, calico and other cotton bags can be reused for many years.

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